Trade and Industry

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Trade and Industry

24/31 December 1976

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection

A new facility for selective financial assistance under section 8 of the Industry Act 1972 has been introduced to increase investment. The Chancellor has announced an initial allocation of £100 million (page 842).

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Home news

New arrangements for selective financial assistance: £100m initial allocation

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has announced the initial allocation of £100 million to a new facility for selective financial assistance under section 8 of the Industry Act 1972 to increase investment.

A number of industry schemes have been introduced designed to improve the performance of individual sectors as a whole and the terms of the assistance have been specifically tailored to their needs. The Accelerated Projects Scheme, designed to bring forward investment counter-cyclically, was highly successful but has now ended. The need has been felt for a further facility to enable the government to assist individual projects which may be particularly desirable from a national point of view but which would not proceed on the basis proposed without the assistance.

The new facility draws heavily on the experience of the Accelerated Projects Scheme. Assistance will be given on a selective basis to companies for individual major projects that will lead to substantial and identifiable improvements in industrial performance. This assistance will be used to support the aims of the industrial strategy – where the Sector Working Parties are currently concentrating on the action needed to improve performance in both the domestic and overseas markets – and will be directed towards the manufacturing sector, with particular emphasis on engineering.

The Committee on Finance for Investment under Sir Eric Roll has endorsed this new arrangement as a valuable addition to the range of incentives to help to generate more worthwhile investment in the immediate future.

The following criteria will apply:

1. The company would not have undertaken the project on the basis proposed (in relation to its nature, scale or timing) in the absence of government assistance.
2. Projects must be commercially viable and must result in a significant improvement in performance.
3. Projects should normally involve new investment of at least £0.5 million, including working capital and ancillary costs directly associated with the project.
4. Projects will have to be submitted to the Department of Industry by 30 June 1978.

No precise rules can be given in relation to criterion 1, but evidence justifying consideration may include: a genuine and significant advancement in time; a substantial increase in scale or efficiency; or a desirable extension of product range or marketing.

In order to establish the impact of the proposed government assistance assessments take account of the company's existing investment commitments and programme, its investment criteria and capital availability.

Criterion 2 means that the department will need to be satisfied that companies will be able, after receiving assistance, to maintain profitability, and that the specific incremental benefits flowing from the project should be identified.

Criterion 3 defines the scale of projects; eligible costs include fixed capital expenditure, such as plant and buildings, together with associated working capital and one-off revenue items necessary to achieve the purposes of the project; these might include, for example, the cost of building up marketing facilities, licensing arrangements, product development costs and relevant training costs.

Assistance for nine industrial sectors: current position

Assistance has now been introduced under section 8 of the Industry Act for nine industrial sectors. These are the wool textile, ferrous foundry, machine tool, clothing, paper and board, poultrymeat processing, textile machinery, printing machinery and red-meat slaughterhouse industries. Brief details of the arrangements for each industry are as follows:

The Wool Textile Scheme was aimed at encouraging rationalisation, stimulating investment in new equipment and eliminating uneconomic and unneeded capacity. When it closed for applications at the end of December 1975, 208 applications had been submitted, seeking assistance for projects involving a total investment of £83 million. The original allocation of £15 million to the scheme was increased to £18 million to allow all applications to be processed. So far, assistance of £14.1 million has been offered towards the costs of projects with a total investment value of £73.5 million. The scheme has been more successful in modernising the industry's equipment and reducing excess capacity than in rationalising it, and a second phase of the scheme for which £5 million has been allocated and which concentrates on improving the industry's structure was introduced on 29 November 1976.

The Ferrous Foundries Scheme (introduced in August 1975) is intended to encourage firms to invest in new productive equipment and buildings, to improve working conditions and to develop more efficient production and commercial practices. 149 projects have now been approved, involving total investment of £126.2 million and assistance of £27.4 million. A further 124 projects are under appraisal involving investment of £148.6 million and possible assistance of £33.5 million. £40 million has been allocated to the scheme. The scheme closes for applications on 31 December 1976.

The Machine Tool Scheme (introduced in August 1975 and revised August 1976) is aimed at improving the efficiency and competitiveness of UK machine tool manufacturers by assisting re-equipment and encouraging product development; 16 projects have been approved involving investment of £19 million and assistance of about £3.2 million. 28 cases under appraisal would involve further investment of £14 million. Greater interest is being stimulated and applications are expected to pick up now that the scope of the scheme has been widened and incentives adjusted. £20 million has been allocated to the scheme.

The Clothing Scheme (introduced in October 1975) aims at assisting rationalisation of the industry and improving its productivity and efficiency by increasing the rate of investment. 79 projects have been approved, involving assistance of £0.5 million towards total investment of £2.4 million. A further 79 applications involving a total investment of £15.9 million are under consideration. Improvements to the scheme were announcd on 7 December 1976 and the closing date has been extended to 31 December 1977. The original £20 million allocation has been cut to £15 million.

The Paper and Board Scheme (introduced in June 1976) is designed to benefit the balance of payments by encouraging a greater use of indigenous fibrous raw materials, in particular waste paper, by UK paper and board manufacturers. It is also aimed at encouraging the introduction of innovatory plant and production processes. 15 projects have been approved, involving assistance over £3.8 million towards investment of £20 million. 13 applications involving a total investment of £10 million and assistance of £2.6 million are under consideration. £23 million has been allocated to the scheme.

The Poultrymeat Processing Scheme (introduced in August 1976) is designed to assist companies within the industry to improve or modify their premises and equipment so that they will reach the EEC's poultrymeat hygiene regulations. So far, assistance of £0.7 million has been approved towards investment of £3.4 million. 33 applications for assistance of £3 million towards investment of £15.2 million are under consideration. £5 million has been allocated to the scheme.

The Red-Meat Slaughterhouse Scheme (introduced on 9 November 1976) is intended to assist the industry to comply with existing and prospective hygiene regulations applying to the preparation of carcase meat for consumers and to participate effectively in inter-community trade. 13 applications towards investment of £4.2 million and assistance of £0.7 million are currently under consideration. £20 million has been allocated to this scheme.

The assistance available to the *Textile and Printing Machinery Industries* (announced in August 1976) aims to encourage the development of new products and the modernisation and/or rationalisation of production facilities. Eight applications from firms in these sectors involving total investment of about £3.7 million are at present under consideration. The allocations are £20 million for the textile machinery industry and £15 million for the printing machinery industry.

Accelerated Projects Scheme. With one or two cases still awaiting final decision, assistance of just under £85 million has been offered towards 121 projects which will induce total capital investment of about £641 million. Benefits to the balance of payments are estimated to reach about £475 million per annum by 1980 and the total investment generated will create about 11,500 jobs.

The amount and terms of assistance will be negotiated individually as the minimum necessary to bring about the additional benefits associated with the project. Account will also be taken of the nature and scale of the investment, and the degree of risk, projected returns and industrial policy advantages. Assistance will normally be in the form of a grant, usually an interest relief grant. Other forms of Industry Act assistance may be considered in special cases, but it is anticipated that these will be relatively few. The payment of assistance will be linked to performance according to the particular circumstances of each project.

To assist in the processing of proposals, applicants should include the following: a brief summary of the company's activities and copies of accounts for the three years; a brief outline of the project, indicating its purpose and rationale, and its special features such as location, product, manufacturing process, industrial significance, markets involved and its relationship with the existing activities of the company; a summary of projects costs, broken down into plant, buildings, working capital and other elements; and how the project is to be financed; and an indication of the projected improvement, such as balance of payments or efficiency, resulting from the provision of government assistance.

Projects will be appraised by the Department of Industry and all commercial information supplied will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Companies wishing further advice on this facility should approach the Industrial Development Unit, Department of Industry, Room 825, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QU (tel. 01-211 3539/4360/7082) or their normal sponsoring Division/Department or Regional Office. (In Scotland, Scottish Economic Planning Department, Alhambra House, 45 Waterloo Street, Glasgow, GT 6 AT, tel. 041-248 2855 ext. 445. In Wales, Industry Department, Block 2, Government Buildings, Galbalfa, Cardiff CF4 4WL, tel. 0222 62131 ext 743.)

Industry Act assistance: interest rates increased

The maximum rate of interest relief grant and interest rates for loans under section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 were increased with effect from 20 December.

The rate of interest relief grant available in those cases where it would be appropriate to allow the equivalent of an interest free period on a Department of Industry loan – but where firms obtain their finance from other sources – has been increased from 15½ per cent to 16 per cent for each interest free year.

The 'concessionary' rate of interest on loans for employment-creating projects (category A) is increased from 12½ per cent to 13 per cent. The 'broadly commercial' rate of interest on loans for modernisation projects not providing additional employment (category B) is increased from 15½ per cent to 16 per cent.

Chancellor announces cuts in government spending

Further government measures 'to promote the nation's economic recovery and to achieve the fastest possible return to a high and sustainable level of employment' were announced in the House of Commons on 15 December by Denis Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The measures will cover the next two years and will form part of a medium-term programme for national recovery to ensure that the 1980s offer us 'the prospect of an economy fully restored to balance, with high levels of output, employment and real wages and an industry which is vigorous, expanding and profitable.' Further elements in this programme for national recovery will be contained in the next budget and in the next phase of the industrial strategy.

Reduction in the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement

'The latest forecast prepared before the measures showed a PSBR of £10½ billion in 1977/78 and £11½ billion in 1978/79,' said the Chancellor. 'These forecasts embodied unrealistically favourable assumptions on several important points. Even so the PSBR figures were unacceptably high and the immediate objective of the measures which I am announcing this afternoon is to reduce the public sector borrowing requirement to about £8.7 billion in 1977/78 and to somewhat less in the following year – on present forecasts I expect a figure of some £8.6 billion. So the reduction in the PSBR would be nearly £2 billion in 1977/78 and nearly £3 billion in 1978/79. Expressed as a percentage of GDP, the PSBR will fall steadily from 9 per cent in the current year to about 6 per cent in 1977/78 and rather over 5 per cent in 1978/79. These objectives are calculated on the basis of the economic prospect as I now see it.

'To achieve these objectives, the government are proposing adjustments to current plans amounting to £1½ billion in 1977/78 and £2 billion in 1978/79. I am therefore announcing specific measures this afternoon which amount to some £1½ billion in each year. In addition, the government will make a further fiscal adjustment of about £½ billion in 1978/79. It is too soon to say what form this further adjustment will take.

The Chancellor said that the fiscal adjustment in both years would come mainly from savings in public expenditure rather than increases in taxation.

Other extracts from the Chancellor's speech are as follows:

'The planned programme for phasing out the government's food subsidies will be accelerated and will be completed in 1977/78, saving £160 million in that year and about £60 million in the following year. This will add less than ¼ per cent to the RPI over 1977/78.'

'Under the new treatment of the nationalised industries on which we have consulted the Expenditure Committee, we shall in future be including in public expenditure only government finance for these industries, rather than their investment programmes as such. We intend to agree with the nationalised industries action which will reduce the level of government financing by £110 and £130 million in the next two years. As well as economies in spending there will be increases in revenue, notably a gas price increase which the government are asking the British Gas Corporation to effect from April 1977.

'The government want to move progressively towards a more selective approach to assistance for industry. It is doubtful whether REP now fulfils the original purpose of attracting employment to the regions. We therefore believe that it should now give way to more selective measures and it will be withdrawn by statutory order early in the new year, saving £150 million next year and £170 million in the year after.'

Export credit

'The refinancing by the government of fixed rate credit for exports and shipbuilding imposes a major charge on public expenditure and the PSBR which threatens to exceed previous forecasts. Partly to deal with this, I have asked the clearing banks to finance from their own resources an additional £100 million of fixed rate sterling business in each of the next two years and I am glad to say that they have agreed to do so. We believe that by funding medium and long term export credit in foreign currency instead of in sterling we can reduce the burden which export credit imposes on public expenditure, the PSBR and the balance of payments. We are therefore taking steps to encourage the use of foreign currency financing and to control the rate at which new offers of fixed rate sterling finance will be approved by ECGD. All these measures will reduce expenditure on refinancing and together produce a net saving of £100 million in 1977/78 and £200 million in 1978/79, below that shown in Cmnd. 6393.

'We are aware of the concern of industry about the future of the cost escalation scheme which, as matters stand, is due to end in March 1977. We now propose that it should be continued for a further year. The necessary draft order will be laid before the House in due course.'

Measures to help employment and investment

'There will be an increase in the resources of the National Enterprise Board and the Scottish and Welsh Development Agencies. A new selective investment scheme will be introduced to follow up the very successful Accelerated Projects Scheme (see page 842).

'There will be an increase of £120 million in 1977-78 in spending on measures to

reduce unemployment. New applications for the Temporary Employment Subsidy are to close at the end of this month and for the Job Creation Programme shortly after. We have decided to extend these two schemes to the end of April, and then to review their future along with the other new schemes which the government has recently introduced. This additional expenditure will more than offset the impact on unemployment next year of the other measures which I have announced and will mean that the net effect of the whole package will be to reduce unemployment during 1977.

'If, at the time I settle my budget for 1977/78, I judge that without increasing the PSBR above £8.7 billion there is scope for tax reliefs and if, as I expect, a satisfactory agreement has been reached with the TUC and the CBI on the next pay round, then I propose to use the available margin to reduce the present burden of income tax which I believe to be too heavy.

Taxation of overseas earnings

'There is one aspect of taxation which I intend to start considering at once. I believe it is important to find ways of improving the tax treatment of employees who live in this country but who work abroad on increasing our exports. The people I want to encourage are those at the sharp end of exporting – the business of selling British goods overseas – as well as those who contribute to our overseas earnings by working for a period overseas, for example in construction projects. I have therefore asked the Inland Revenue to issue a consultative paper which will outline proposals to give to anyone who works for a period abroad the reliefs which are at present allowed only to those with separate jobs abroad. The proposals would also modify the rules governing the allowance of expenses incurred abroad. I have authorised the revenue to seek the views of interested bodies.

Domestic monetary effects

'I have already described the targets which we have set for the PSBR of £8.7 billion for 1977/78 and £8.6 billion for 1978/79, in order to create monetary conditions which will encourage investment and growth and will help to control inflation. We are expressing the essential monetary targets in terms of Domestic Credit Expansion rather than money supply, since we agree with the IMF that this will be more appropriate than a target for M3, during a period when we shall be giving top priority to putting our balance of payments right.

'DCE will be kept to £9 billion in the year up to 20 April 1977 and £7.7 billion in the year ending 19 April 1978, and I expect a further reduction in the following year to £6 billion. The growth of M3 which will accompany DCE at these rates will depend on a number of factors, especially progress on the balance of payments. For 1976/77, again on a banking month basis the growth of sterling M3 is likely to be between 9 per cent and 13 per cent. It is too early to give an estimate for 1977/78. But our target will now be in terms of DCE not M3.

'Because the public sector will be making a smaller demand on savings in the next two years, these DCE targets should provide sufficient room for industry's essential needs. The targets will be reviewed after six months to ensure that this is so. I hope, too, that the IMF agreement and the measures I have announced will enable us to see interest rates fall from their present exceptional levels while keeping control of the monetary aggregates. This reduction in interest rates may be slow at first, but should move faster as the balance of payments and the rate of inflation both improve. We shall, however, need the existing range of credit controls for the present, perhaps with technical adjustments to special deposits arising from success with gilt sales.

Public expenditure savings

£ million at 1976 Survey prices

Programme	Expenditure	1977-78	1978-79
1	Defence budget	100	200
2	Overseas aid	50	50
3	Food subsidies	160	57
4	Regional employment premium	150	170
	Refinancing of fixed rate credits	100	200
	Capital spending at CFEs* for industrial training	10	10
5	Nationalised industries†	110	130
6	Road construction	75	50
7	Housing	–20	300
8	Regional water authorities' etc construction	75	130
	Local environmental services: construction and other capital	50	50
	Community ownership of development land	35	35
9	Courts – purchase of sites	2	—
10	Education – construction	22	11
	Other education expenditure, including school meals	20	30
11	Health and personal social services – construction	10	20
	Other NHS expenditure	5	5
15	Northern Ireland	5	10
various	Property Services Agency	27	45
various	Expenditure on the Civil Service	30	10
	Total	1,016	1,513

* Colleges of Further Education.
† Savings in requirements for Government finance.

Summary

'To sum up, the government's measures amount to a total fiscal adjustment of £1½ billion in 1977/78 and £2 billion in 1978/79. In addition, the PSBR will benefit from the reduced cost of debt interest resulting not only from the lower borrowing requirement, but also from the lower level of interest rates which I am confident that these measures will help us to achieve.

IMF

The Chancellor continued: 'Dr Witteveen the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, has told me that he supports both the economic strategy which I have described and the measures the government are taking, and is prepared to recommend acceptance of my request for the standby arrangement to the executive directors of the fund.

'Before the fund board meets there will be a meeting of the Group of Ten countries, who stand ready, under the General Arrangements to Borrow, to provide the fund with the useable currencies it needs for large drawings if its own available currencies are inadequate. I am confident that, in a matter of days after the end of the year, the operation will be complete and the reserves replenished.

'The stand-by arrangements this time cover a two-year period, so that we can make the necessary adjustment without imposing unacceptable strains on the social contract and the industrial strategy. In total we shall be able to draw up to nearly $4 billion, of which $1.15 billion immediately and over $1 billion more before the end of 1977. This, I am confident, will transform the external financing position in 1977.

Sterling balances

'The government has been concerned to remove the pressures exerted on the sterling exchange rate by the overhang of the sterling balances. Considerable work has already been done on this problem in the Bank for International Settlement in Basle, where central bank governors have had constructive discussions over the last weekend. At the same time, the matter is also under discussion with the Treasury and the Federal Reserve in Washington.

'I am also glad to be able to tell the House that during the period ahead and in anticipation of further drawings under the agreement with the IMF which will take place later in the year, I intend to strengthen the reserves with $500 million which has been offered by the United States Treasury and the Federal Reserve in the form of swaps. In addition, the Bundesbank have offered the Bank of England a stand-by facility of $350 million by way of further support.

Economic prospects

'The government are releasing today and placing in the Vote Office the first economic forecast published under the provisions of the Industry Act 1975, and this will give the House a picture of the economic prospects following the mesaures I have announced.

'Next year will be a difficult year of transition,' said the chancellor. 'I believe that the policies I have announced, reinforced by the next budget and further progress on the industrial strategy, will ensure that it is a transition to a much more firmly based prosperity. Part of this prosperity will be due to the development of North Sea oil production, but our economic strength will depend critically on the use we make of the benefit this brings. We must use it not only to resume the growth in our living standards but also – and in the long run this is more important – to rebuild the capital base of our manufacturing industry.'

Price Code consultative document

Proposals for technical adjustments to the Price Code were published on 15 December in a consultative document by the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, Roy Hattersley. In brief, the proposed changes are:

Indirect taxes on alcoholic drink and tobacco. As a result of the increases in excise duties on alcoholic drink and tobacco announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 15 December, the Price Code is to be amended to maintain the principle that profit margins should not be taken on indirect tax increases. This principle has been applied to enterprises selling alcoholic drink and tobacco by requiring deductions of 15 per cent and 20 per cent respectively from sales values, when calculating gross and net profit margins under the Price Code. It is proposed that these deductions should be raised, with effect from 17 January 1977, to 20 per cent for alcoholic drink and to 25 per cent for tobacco and tobacco products.

Port charges in Northern Ireland. The government also proposes to use this opportunity to clear up an anomaly in the Price Code by exempting ship, passenger and goods dues levied by harbour authorities in Northern Ireland. These dues are subject to the jurisdiction of the Northern Ireland Department of Commerce.

Consultation. The government is required by section 2 of the Counter-Inflation Act 1973 to consult interested parties before amending the Price Code. The consultative document is being sent to representatives of the organisations primarily concerned.

CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PRICE CODE

Profit margins and indirect taxes

1 The increases in excise duties announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 15 December require a consequential amendment to the Price Code, to ensure that enterprises cannot increase their profit margins by adding their normal margin to the duty increases.

2 The Price Code follows the general principle that, when margins on turnover are calculated for the purposes both of the net profit margin control on all enterprises and of the gross percentage margin control on distributors, the effects of any excise duty increases since the Code was introduced in 1973 should be excluded from sales values. When the Price Commission investigated earlier this year the effects on distributors of alcoholic drink and tobacco of the treatment of indirect taxes in the Price Code, they found that distributors had difficulty in fulfilling the requirement to identify the precise element in their sales figures which was properly attributable to excise duty increases since 1973. They recommended that this requirement should be replaced by the deduction of standard percentages from sales of alcoholic drink and tobacco which would broadly reflect the average component of sales represented by duty increases.

3 The modifications made to the Price Code with effect from 1 August 1976 accordingly included an amendment to paragraph 87 of the Code, prescribing deductions of 15 per cent of sales of alcoholic drink and 20 per cent of sales of tobacco and tobacco products in the calculation of the net profit margins of all enterprises, and this provision was applied also to distributors' gross margins by virtue of paragraph 110. The Price Commission were also given power to prescribe lower deductions for any individual enterprise which could satisfy them that the particular sales mix of the enterprise justified a lower percentage.

4 In setting these deductions at a lower level than the Price Commission had recommended, the government took account of representations from the trades concerned and of the desirability of making the deductions broadly appropriate for a full year, on the assumptions of an unchanged level of excise duties and of increases in manufacturers' and importers' prices of the relevant goods. In the light of the increases in excise duties, the Government consider that an increase of 5 percentage points in the deductions from the sales values of both alcoholic drink and tobacco products is justified. It is therefore proposed that deductions of 20 per cent from sales of alcoholic drink and 25 per cent from sales of tobacco and tobacco products should apply to calculations of net and gross margins with effect from 17 January 1977.

Port charges in Northern Ireland

5 The government also propose to take this opportunity to correct an anomaly in the present Price Code, whereby ship, passenger and goods dues are exempt from control in ports in Great Britain but subject to control in Northern Ireland ports. These dues in Great Britain are exempt from the Code to avoid duplication with the powers of jurisdiction over port charges which the National Ports Council have under the Harbours Act 1964. In Northern Ireland the Department of Commerce have similar powers under the Harbours Act (Northern Ireland) 1970, and it is therefore proposed to extend the present exemption under paragraph 6(f) to the Price Code to cover all ship, passenger and goods dues.

Consultative period

6 Annexed is a draft of the proposed amendments to the Price Code, which is contained in Schedule 1 to SI 1976 no. 1170. Any comments on the government's proposals should reach the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection as soon as possible and in any case not later than 22 December 1976.

ANNEX. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PRICE CODE

(a) Port charges in Northern Ireland

In paragraph 6(f)(iv) of the Price Code, insert after the words 'Harbour Act 1964' the words 'or the Harbours Act (Northern Ireland) 1970, as the case may require'.

In paragraph 6(f)(v) replace the words 'of that Act' by the words 'of the said Act of 1964 or to the Department of Commerce under section 7 of the said Act of 1970'.

(b) Profit margins and indirect taxes

In paragraph 87(2), substitute for sub-paragraph (a) the following sub-paragraphs:

a the value of sales before 17 January 1977 shall be taken to be:
  (i) in the case of alcoholic beverages, 85 per cent of sales, and
  (ii) in the case of tobacco and tobacco products, 80 per cent of sales;

aa the value of sales after 16 January 1977 shall be taken to be:
  (i) in the case of alcoholic beverages, 80 per cent of sales, and
  (ii) in the case of tobacco and tobacco products, 75 per cent of sales; and'

In paragraph 87(3), insert after the words 'sub-paragraph (2)(a)' the words 'or (2)(aa)'.

Increases in excise duties: Price Code

The provisions of the Price Code ensure that price increases are kept to the minimum necessary to reflect the 10 per cent increase in excise duties on alcoholic drink and tobacco announcd on 15 December by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The increases in excise duties should not be applied to goods already in stock which did not bear the new rates of duty. Retailers are not permitted in these circumstances to reprice goods already displayed for sale unless they turn over their stocks of the goods concerned less than 10 times per year. The increases in duty are paid before the dutiable goods reach the shops, and the timing of increases in retail prices will therefore depend on the level of stocks held by distributors. Such increases should not begin to occur until some time after 1 January.

Distributors (ie wholesalers and retailers) need not apply the amount of a change in indirect taxation precisely to the goods bearing the tax – primarily because the smallest coin is ½p. But the average price change, allowing for the pattern of sales, may not exceed the full amount of the indirect tax increase.

Gross and net profit margins may not be increased in consequence of the duty changes. The Price Code provides that the effects of excise duty increases should be excluded from sales figures when margins on turnover are calculated. Where, in the case of alcoholic drink and tobacco products, this is achieved by specific percentage deductions from sales, the Price Code is to be amended to increase these deductions broadly in line with the excise duty increases. The deductions are to be raised from 15 per cent to 20 per cent for alcoholic drink and from 20 per cent to 25 per cent for tobacco and tobacco products. A consultative document on the Price Code changes was issued on 15 December by the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

Manufacturing and service enterprises which are normally required to pre-notify any price increases to the Price Commission need not pre-notify increases which reflect solely the cash value of excise duty increases, but they must continue to observe the normal requirements of the Price Code. In particular they may not use excise duty increases as justification for raising the prices of any goods which they sell before the duty increases take effect.

Food subsidy abolished on butter, reduced on cheese

The abolition of the butter subsidy and a reduction in the cheese subsidy was announced on 15 December by Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection. The cuts will take effect from Tuesday, 28 December 1976 and are estimated to be equivalent to about 4p per lb at the retail level in respect of both butter and cheese. Further reductions following the chancellor's statement on 15 December will not take place for some months.

Replying to a parliamentary question from John Ovenden (Gravesend), Mr Hatterley said:

'As my rt hon friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer has announced today, we are accelerating the phasing out of the food subsidy programme. We have accordingly decided to abolish the butter subsidy with effect from Tuesday, 28 December 1976 and, from the same date, to reduce the subsidy on cheese from the present rate of £109 per ton to £45 per ton. In retail price terms these cuts are equivalent to about 4p per lb on both butter and cheese. I would not expect the full effect to be widely felt in shops for some time in the new year.

'The rates of subsidy following these reductions and the cut in the bread subsidy which I have already announced will be as follows:

	Estimated retail equivalent
Milk	1p per pint
Cheese	3p per lb
Bread	1p per large loaf
Flour	1p per lb

(The tea and butter subsidies will both have ended by January 1977).

'I do not intend to make further reductions in the subsidies in the next few months but, as my rt hon friend has announced, the programme will effectively be wound up during 1977/78.'

Notes

In accordance with the white paper on Public Expenditure (Cmnd 6393) published in February 1976, spending on the food subsidy programme, which was £572 million in 1975/76, has to be contained within £408 million in 1976/77. The provision for subsequent years has to take account of the uprating to 1976 Survey prices, the reduction of £80 million in 1977/78 announced by the chancellor in July, and the further announcement on 15 December.

The figures are as folllows:

1976 Survey prices in £m

	Cmnd 6393 uprated	July announcement	15 December announcement	Remaining provision
1977/78	280	−80	−160	40 (1)
1978/79	84	—	−82 (2)	2 (3)

1 Of this provision £37 million will be used for food subsidies and £3 million to finance the continuation of local price surveys and consumer advice centres.

2 This reduction is due in part to the need to keep public spending generally within the overall Cmnd 6393 total and in part to the contribution of about £60 million to the overall savings announced today.

3 The maintenance of a small figure in 1978/79 is intended to permit UK participation in EEC subsidy schemes.

Reductions in subsidy rates since the beginning of this year have been as follows:

	Rate at 1.1.76	Reductions	Rate at Jan. 1977
Milk	2p per pint	−1p 1 Dec.	1p
Bread	2p per large loaf	−½p 9 Aug. (-½p 2 Jan. 1977)	1p
Butter	11p per lb	−4p 6 June; −3p 14 Nov; −4p 28 Dec	—
Cheese	12p per lb	−2p 25 Jan. −3p 14 Nov. −4p 28 Dec.	3p
Flour	1p per lb	no change	1p
Tea	8p per lb	−8p 26 Sept.	—

At present subsidies are estimated to save 1.7 per cent on the food index and 0.4 per cent on RPI. The ultimate effect of the cuts in the butter and cheese subsidies will be less than 0.1 per cent on the RPI. In cash terms it is estimated that subsidies currently save a typical family of two adults and two children about 35p per week on food expenditure and an old age pensioner couple about 19p per week.

The retail trade will be consulted about any consequential amendment which may be necessary in the Cheese Prices Order as a result of the subsidy reduction. No change is proposed in respect of the Butter Prices Order since unsubsidised butter is not subject to statutory maximum prices. The present Butter Prices Order will remain in force for the time being to cover subsidised butter which is already in the distributive chain.

The cheese subsidy is paid on both home-produced and imported varieties of eligible natural cheeses and on imported cheese products (eg processed cheese and cheese spread) made from those varieties. No subsidy is paid on home produced cheese products as such since these benefit indirectly from the subsidy paid on the natural cheeses from which they are manufactured.

In consequence of the reduction of £64 per ton in the subsidy on eligible natural cheeses, the following reductions are being made on imported cheese products:

£ per ton at First Hand Leve

	Old rate	New rate	Reduction
Imported processed cheese	98	40	58
Imported cheese spread	65	27	38
Imported powdered cheese	183	76	107
Imported grated cheese	109	45	64

Surcharge on Revenue Duties Order 1976 and Tobacco Products Duty (Increase) Order 1976

The Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a surcharge of 10 per cent on the revenue duties on tobacco and alcoholic drinks, and an increase of 10 per cent in the rates of the excise duty on tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars and tobaccos). These measures are introducted in two orders made by the Treasury: the Surcharge on Revenue Duties Order 1976, and the Tobacco Products Duty (Increase) Order 1976.

The orders increase the duties on spirits, beer, wine, made-wine, cider and perry, and those on tobacco and tobacco products. When the increases come into operation they will increase the total tax burden (inclusive of VAT at 8 per cent) on particular goods as follows:

a SPIRITS:	about 31p on a standard bottle of spirits at 70° proof;
b BEER:	a little under 1p on a pint of beer of average strength;
c WINE:	about 5p on a standard bottle of table wine, and about 7p on a bottle of fortified wine such as sherry;
d CIDER:	less than ½p on a pint;
e TOBACCO:	about 4p on a packet of filter tipped cigarettes of average size.

It is estimated that these changes will yield £280 million in 1977/78 (including the additional yield of VAT).

The increases in the duties on alcoholic drinks and in the excise duty on tobacco products will come into effect on 1 January 1977. The increase in the revenue duty on tobacco, which is charged mainly on the raw leaf prior to manufacture, came into effect on 16 December 1976.

Since the increases in the duties on alcoholic drinks and tobacco products are not being made immediately, but are delayed until 1 January 1977, the Commissioners of Customs and Excise are placing restrictions on the quantities of spirits, wine, made-wine, cider and perry and tobacco products which may be cleared to home use on payment of duty during the remainder of December. These restrictions, imposed under the power contained in section 261 of the Customs and Excise Act 1952, are designed to limit such clearances to normal levels.

Public Notices (nos. 320A and 85B) giving details of these duty changes and restrictions on clearances are being issued to all manufacturers, warehousekeepers and importers known to be affected.

Definition of domestic credit expansion

The Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement to the House of Commons referred to the rate of domestic credit expansion (DCE) which the government foresees in the years up to 1978-79. The Treasury has given figures which are on the basis of a definition of the DCE concept revised, by agreement with the IMF, from that used in the UK since 1969.

The flow of DCE was previously defined as:

1 The change in domestic non-bank holdings of notes and coin, plus
2 Lending to the public sector by UK banks and from overseas, plus
3 Lending by UK banks in sterling and foreign currencies to the private sector (other than lending in foreign currencies for investment overseas,) plus
4 Lending by UK banks in sterling to the overseas sector.

The change in definition relates to element 2. In future only sterling bank lending to the private sector will be included and the whole of foreign currency lending (not only that part used for investment overseas) will be excluded. On the new basis the concept can be defined as:

1 The change in domestic non-bank holdings of notes and coin, plus
2 All lending in sterling by UK banks to the public, private and overseas sectors, plus
3 Overseas lending to the public sector and bank lending to the public sector in foreign currencies.

An alternative presentation of the concept is:

1 The public sector borrowing requirement, minus
2 Purchases of public sector debt by the non-bank private sector, plus
3 The increase in bank lending in sterling to the private sector and overseas sector.

Lending to the UK private sector in foreign currencies for direct and portfolio investment overseas was excluded in 1969 because it had no appreciable effect on domestic liquidity. It has now been decided also to exclude other foreign currency lending by UK banks to the private sector. Under the old definition foreign currency borrowing by the UK private sector from a bank in the UK was included in DCE, whereas such borrowing from a bank based overseas was excluded, though alternating between the two sources has no significant effect on UK economic conditions.

In future DCE figures will be published on the revised definition. Figures on the new basis are appended to this notice, and the necessary changes in the various government and Bank of England statistical publications will be incorporated as soon as possible. One implication of the new definition is that DCE figures can now be produced for 'banking' quarters, ie periods of three banking months, as well as for calendar quarters: on the old definition it was necessary to differentiate foreign currency lending for overseas investment and for other purposes, an exercise which was only possible – and then very imprecisely – for the end-calendar quarter money and banking series. The attached table provides figures for the new DCE definition on both the end-calendar quarter and banking quarter bases, with the comparative figures on the old definition shown for the former.

A parallel change is that greater official emphasis will be placed in future on the sterling component of M3, money supply on the broader definition. The stock of M3 includes, in addition to domestic non-bank holdings of notes and coin, the total of UK residents' bank deposits with UK banks whether denominated in sterling or foreign currencies, but available evidence suggests that about three-quarters of the foreign currency deposits have little connection with changes in UK residents' spending power or in the demand for UK resources. Apart from the proceeds of foreign currency borrowing awaiting overseas investment, they include such items as the large working balances needed by UK-based multinational oil companies to cover their international operations, and part of insurance companies' overseas premiums which may be retained in foreign currency to cover against foreign currency claims. The level of such funds at any one time is probably dependent more on conditions outside than inside the UK; and it

Domestic credit expansion (DCE) and the change in money supply (M3)

Seasonally adjusted

	DCE		Change in M3			
	Old definition	New definition	Total		Sterling component	
	£ million	£ million	£ million	%	£ million	%
Calendar quarters						
1974 2nd quarter	+1,459	+1,359	+685	+2.0	+278	+0.9
3rd quarter	+2,014	+1,886	+1,215	+3.5	+895	+2.7
4th quarter	+2,523	+2,212	+1,107	+3.1	+1,209	+3.9
1975 1st quarter	+832	+898	+655	+1.8	+534	+1.5
2nd quarter*	+2,205	+2,056	+504	+1.3	+672	+1.9
3rd quarter	+1,193	+984	+1,535	+4.0	+1,115	+3.1
4th quarter	+523	+540	+190	+0.5	+15	—
1976 1st quarter	+1,367	+1,435	+735	+1.8	+570	+1.5
2nd quarter	+2,584	+2,658	+1,549	+3.8	+1,160	+3.1
3rd quarter	+2,956	+2,760	+2,122	+5.0	+1,636	+4.2
Banking quarters						
1975 April-July*		+1,845	+846	+2.3	+732	+2.1
July-October		+1,089	+1,272	+3.4	+888	+2.5
October-January		+22	+139	+0.4	+20	+0.1
1976 January-April		+2,382	+1,305	+3.3	+990	+2.7
April-July		+2,155	+1,320	+3.3	+1,056	+2.8
July-October		+2,654	+2,226	+5.3	+1,662	+4.3

* Changes for this quarter include a large degree of estimation because of the change in the system of reporting banking statistics in May 1975.

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makes no difference to UK economic conditions whether the balances are held in London (included in the foreign currency element of M3) or overseas (excluded from M3). Moreover the large balances held by oil companies are subject to large variations which can significantly distort the monthly changes in total M3.

Remaining foreign currency deposits in M3 include balances held by other types of UK company for trade and other authorised purposes, and some of these can be a substitute for sterling funds (though not necessarily for the sterling deposits in M3). But the total outstanding of this kind is sufficiently small to justify concentrating attention on sterling M3 alone.

Figures for the main component parts of M3 are already published, and the total sterling element can be derived from the tables available. As soon as possible, however, tables will be modified to show sterling M3 more explictly in the relevant publications. For convenience the table below includes figures for total M3 and sterling M3 on both the calendar quarter and banking quarter base.

Investment by industry

The twelfth in the series of *Government Economic Service Occasional Papers* is now available. Entitled *Investment Intentions, Authorisations and Expenditures*, it was written by Mr P. J. Lund (now at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) and Mr C. L. Melliss (now at the Treasury), while working at the Department of Industry, and by Miss V. J. Hamilton of the Treasury.

The paper is concerned with forecasting the volume of fixed capital expenditure by manufacturing and distributive and service industries using firms' replies to questions put in two regular sample surveys. The investment intentions inquiries of the Department of Industry (DI), conducted three times a year, ask for numerical statements of investment expenditure intentions for each of two successive calendar years. The Industrial Trends Survey of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), conducted four times a year, includes a question asking firms whether they expect to authorise more or less capital expenditure in the next 12 months than in the past 12 months.

The first four chapters relate to the DI inquiries and describe the details of their operation and methods of analysing the relationship between actual expenditure and the previously stated intentions. A fifth chapter covers the same issues more briefly with respect to the CBI question on investment authorisations, while a sixth discusses and compares forecasting using the results of both inquiries. The subject of the paper is a matter of general interest but the exposition is necessarily technical and employs both mathematical notation and fairly sophisticated methods of statistical analysis.

The paper is published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office and can be obtained from government bookshops or through booksellers price £3.95.

Mr Dell explains government's support for current cost accounting

Current cost accounting should become the basis for company accounts 'as soon as practicable,' said Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, when addressing a *Financial Times* conference on inflation accounting, in London last week.

Time for action

'I want to repeat,' Mr Dell said, 'that the government believes that the introduction of current cost accounting will provide better information about the performance of companies for all users, and that it will therefore have a beneficial effect on the performance itself. There will, no doubt, be much debate and certainly some criticisms of the Morpeth group's proposals. I know that the Morpeth group and the accounting standards committee will be ready and willing to modify the proposals where this appears to be desirable in the light of comments received. But do not let us delude ourselves that universally acceptable answers will be found in this first stage to all of the theoretical problems.

'The debate about inflation accounting has been with us for more than a quarter of a century. The time has now come for action, for getting on with the introduction of CCA in company accounts as soon as practicable. I hope that during the exposure period, as many companies as possible will try out the Morpeth group's proposals on their own accounts, and that the result will be studied, not only by accountants, but also by senior management and boards of directors, who will then be ready to give the accounting standards committee the benefit of their own practical experience. It is in this way that we can all make the best and most constructive use of the exposure period to facilitate the effective and early implementation of current cost accounting.'

Mr Dell gave four reasons in favour of current cost accounts:

Historic cost accounts were shown to be deficient

CCA would be a more reliable indicator of real return on assets

Its effect on showing the need for higher productivity would lead to an improved rate of return

CCA would make for better investment decisions.

Historic cost

Current cost accounting concerns itself in principle not just with inflation but with changes in relative prices, Mr Dell said 'Inflation is a factor which over the lifetime of a particular asset may serve to make the historic cost of that asset a doubtful guide to the real profitability of the company. Changes in relative prices can, particularly in a period of fast developing technology, also be a significant fact affecting the real value of a company's assets.

'There can, therefore, be not the least doubt that historic cost accounts are deficient, and indeed for many purposes many of our major companies have long since supplemented them by accounts which they believe to be more representative of the true position of the company.

Real return on assets

'Will current cost accounting be really a more reliable indicator of real return on assets? I think it will, even if imperfect. Perfection is likely to be obtained in this field as in others if at all only by stages; and of course the object of producing the exposure draft is to make available these current proposals for criticism and improvement. At this stage one can note that these proposals have been well received; that even some of the critics, for example the banks, who still feel that their problems have not been adequately dealt with, do not wish to delay progress; and this at any rate suggests that there is some consensus already in favour of what is here proposed.

'That CCA will not be a panacea for our industrial ills is clear enough. There never are panaceas for industrial ills. But can we even expect that improved information will even lead to an improved allocation of resources? It is easy to argue that in principle better information should lead to a better allocation of resources, but in practice is that what is likely to happen in a competitive market?

'For example, will the result be better pricing, that is, pricing with an eye to the return on the real value of one's assets or will the market determine the price, leaving the value of the assets employed as a relative irrelevance?

'Will a company actually consent to lose an order because the price at which they must quote does not represent a sufficient return on the current value of its assets, if it represents a perfectly adequate return on the historic cost of those assets, that is, the sum of money which they have actually paid for them?

Improved rate of return

'My own view is that current cost accounting will have an effect partly on pricing policy but above all on revealing the need for higher productivity, and this should lead to an improved rate of return.

'There is no doubt that competitive pricing is one element in export success and I have sometimes wondered whether companies are not at this moment taking too much of the present competitive advantage in the form of higher unit profits rather than higher volume sales. Nevertheless one cannot achieve long term competitiveness by running down one's assets.

'CCA should have the effect of revealing more accurately the real return on assets employed. I emphasise that a higher real return can be the result not just of price changes but of higher productivity. Indeed in the present situation of the UK, probably the main pressure should be in the direction of higher productivity. But one

certainly will not survive for long in the export business if the cost is to run down one's assets.

Better investment decisions

'The question has also been raised whether there is not a risk that the reduction in apparent profitability under CCA will actually discourage industrial investment? At a time when we need to improve both the level and productivity of investment in UK industry, such an effect would not be helpful to say the least. However, my own judgement is that CCA will make for better, not worse, investment decisions and that in any case the quality of investment is not likely to be improved by a deliberate attempt to conceal the truth from ourselves. Those companies using discounted cash flow techniques for investment appraisal should be largely unaffected by the switch to CCA —while those whose investment criteria have been based on accounting rates of return may find that inflation of historic cost returns has led them to set their criteria too high. Others will of course realise that some of their investment decisions were less profitable than they had expected. This may lead some companies to look more critically at their investment plans and will increase the pressure generally to improve the rate of return on investment, either by looking for more profitable ones or by making particular efforts to increase the efficiency of investments they do make.

Coffee prices to be studied

Coffee is the latest subject to be referred to the Price Commission for special investigation.

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said in parliament on 16 December that he had asked the Price Commission to examine and report on the prices, costs and margins in the importation, processing and distribution of coffee. 'I have received a number of letters concerning the price of coffee, particularly the wide variations in prices between different shops,' he said, 'and I should like the Price Commission to report to me on the facts.'

John Fraser warns 'co-operate on petrol price display – or we make an order'

John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has expressed dissatisfaction at the implementation of the recently negotiated voluntary agreement on display of petrol prices. He was speaking in London at the recent Conoco-Jet luncheon for the Motoring Writer of the Year.

Mr Fraser said:

'Some of the gimmicks which are used to tempt motorists into filling stations have soured relations between the petrol retailer and his customer. Too often the customer is dazzled by a mass of large and small print information which says everything except the price which he will actually have to pay for his petrol.

'Earlier this year at our request, the Office of Fair Trading began a series of meetings with major oil companies and organisations representing petroleum retailers to discuss ways of improving the clarity of petrol price displays and promotional offers. In mid-September a voluntary agreement was reached with the Motor Agents Association, the Scottish Motor Trades Association and the Petroleum Retailers Association and with Conoco, BP, Esso, Mobil and Shell on measures to make it easier for the motorist to see the price of petrol at a garage before he enters the forecourt.

'In essence, the agreement is simple: When petrol is promoted by a claim that its selling price has been reduced or is less than the price posted on the pumps there should be additionally a clear statement – visible to the motorist on the road – of the price per gallon payable to the cash customer taking account of any reduction claimed or, the higher price from which the reduction is claimed. In other words filling stations should not display signs saying '7p off pump prices' but rather 'net cash price 77p' or say '7p off pump price of 84p'.

'The agreement covers 4-star petrol and at least one other grade if it is on offer, and also contains provisions relating to the method of price display – for example, specifying the size of the figures. However, it is a voluntary agreement and some garages are not yet observing it. In fairness to the motorist and to those garages which do have clearly displayed prices, I want to make it clear that we do not intend to rely on public boycott of those garages not yet co-operating. What I want to see is the petrol price displayed in all garages in a clear, comprehensible and honest fashion. If the agreement does not become more widely observed we have an obligation to legislate for clear and unambiguous price display. The powers exist and we are considering carefully whether they ought now to be used.'

Fair Trading to have talks with Rank Xerox about group pricing

Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, is asking the Director General of Fair Trading to discuss with Rank Xerox its group pricing plan arrangements and certain other practices. This follows the publication on 16 December of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on the supply of indirect electrostatic reprographic equipment in the United Kingdom (HMSO £2.10).

The commission found that monopoly conditions prevailed in the supply of indirect electrostatic reprographic equipment in the UK because one supplier (Rank Xerox) supplied at least one-third of the market. But the commission concluded that Rank Xerox's monopoly position did not operate against the public interest. Rank Xerox was well managed, had made possible the rapid introduction of a technological innovation and had made a substantial contribution to the balance of payments. The commission suggested, however, that the position may need to be re-examined if the competition which has developed recently were to fall away.

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Polychloroprene: application for certificate under paragraph 103(b) of the Price Code

The Department of Prices and Consumer Protection has received an application under paragraph 103(b) of the Price Code (contained in the Counter-Inflation (Price Code) Order 1976 – SI 1976 no. 1170) for a certificate which would modify certain provisions of the code in relation to polychloroprene, in order to remove the threat of a significant adverse effect on the United Kingdom balance of payments.

The certificate would authorise the treatment of the manufacture of polychloroprene as a separate unit for the purposes of net profit margin control and would specify that a change in the process for manufacturing polychloroprene would be regarded as a substantial change in the character of the enterprise, for the purpose of satisfying the Price Commission that a modification of the net profit margin reference level was justified under paragraph 93 of the code.

The applicants have informed the department that it is not their intention to use the certificate in the near future to seek to justify larger price increases than the general provisions of the Price Code would allow. The purpose of the certificate would be to give the applicants an assurance of the government's intention that an economic return, involving a higher profit margin than at present, would be permitted on investment to modernise the process for manufacturing polychloroprene. Without such investment, which would not come on stream until after 1980, the applicants contend that manufacture of polychloroprene in the UK could not continue in the longer term.

In considering whether the proposed departures from the Price Code would remove or reduce the threat of a significant adverse effect on the UK balance of payments, the secretary of state will take account of the views of users of polychloroprene and any other interested parties. Any observations on this application should be sent to the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, Room 538, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1 to arrive not later than Wednesday 12 January.

Government mineral exploration aid

Aid totalling £1,464,171 has been approved by the Department of Industry for mineral exploration projects in Britain since the Mineral Exploration and Investment Grants Act 1972 came into force on 24 February 1972 until 31 March 1976.

The fourth annual report* published on 16 December, says 32 companies working on 126 mineral exploration projects have applied for assistance totalling £1,482,084. Sixty-six of these projects were in Scotland. The rest were in Wales, and north and south west England.

In the year ending 31 March, covered by the report, seven companies, three British and four overseas firms registered in Britain, applied for £49,670 worth of aid for 12 exploration projects. Five were for fluorspar exploration in the north of England and the Pennines and one for barium minerals. The others were for non-ferrous metals exploration in Wales, Scotland and the south west.

In addition to assistance already awarded by the department, a further £17,913 involving eight projects is still under consideration.

* 'Mineral Exploration and Investment Grants Act Fourth Annual Report by the Department of Industry for the period 1 April 1975 to 31 March 1976' is available from HMSO bookshops throughout Britain. Price, 25p.

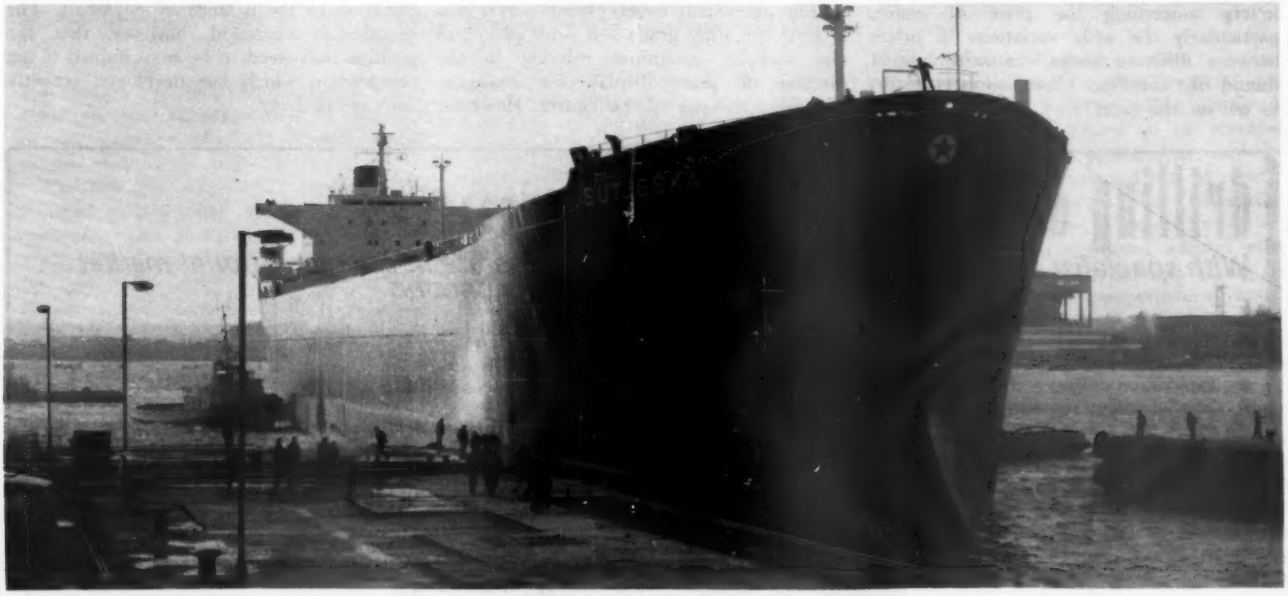
Note

The Mineral Exploration and Investment Grants Act 1972 enables the government to give financial help towards exploring for mineral deposits in Britain and on the Continental Shelf. Up to 35 per cent of costs of searching for non-ferrous metals, fluorspar, barium minerals and potash may be claimed. This covers exploration and evaluation of a project up to the point where a decision can be taken of the commercial viability of a deposit. The act came into force on 24 February 1972. Companies were invited to draw up proposals and submit them for approval when the scheme was announced on 8 July 1971. This fourth report covers the period 1 April 1975 to 31 March 1976.

Full details of the scope and conditions of the scheme are set out in a booklet called 'Financial Assistance for Mineral Exploration in Great Britain: A Guide for Industry' which can be obtained from Department of Industry, MEPT1, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1 4QU (tel. 01-211 3409/3704).

Sunderland-built bulk carriers for Yugoslavia

Another Panamax bulk carrier from Sunderland Shipbuilders, the *Sutjeska* (40,000 tons), enters Southampton's no. 7 drydock for underwater checks before handover to her owners. She is the seventh Panamax bulker to be given this treatment by Vosper Thornycroft, ship repair division. The *Jadran* has also recently been through the drydock on completion of trials. Both ships are for Yugoslav owners.



NEB guidelines: final version

Guidelines for the National Enterprise Board have been given statutory effect by directions issued by Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, under the Industry Act 1975.

The secretary of state announced the directions in a written parliamentary answer on 21 December.

Apart from changes needed to put the text in legal form, Mr Varley said, the final version of the guidelines differed from the draft published last March in only one point of substance: the NEB would have delegated authority to make loans, give guarantees, or engage in joint ventures without notifying him in advance, provided the commitment was for less than £10 million and raised no new or significant policy issues.

The government undertook to give statutory effect to the guidelines for the NEB during the passage of the Industry Bill in 1975. A draft was published on 1 March this year to allow the opportunities for public comment.

The directions and guidelines are reproduced verbatim. Requirements to which the NEB must comply are printed in heavy type.

INDUSTRY ACT 1975

The National Enterprise Board (Takeovers and Mergers) Direction 1976

The Secretary of State, in exercise of his powers under Section 7(1) of the Industry Act 1975, and following consultation with the National Enterprise Board about it, hereby gives the Board the following Direction.

1 This Direction may be cited as the National Enterprise Board (Takeovers and Mergers) Direction 1976.

2 The National Enterprise Board shall, in the exercise of their functions, act in accordance with

a the General Principles, Rules and Practice Notes and amendments thereto set out and appended to the document entitled 'The City Code on Take-overs and Mergers' in the revised edition issued on the authority of the City Working Party in April 1976, and

b Chapter 5 of the document entitled 'Admission of Securities to Listing' in the loose-leaf edition, revised in March 1973 and issued by authority of the Stock Exchange, as amended up to and including July 1976;

and in their application to the National Enterprise Board the City Code and Chapter 5 shall be construed with appropriate modifications.

ERIC VARLEY
Secretary of State for Industry
17 December 1976

INDUSTRY ACT 1975

The National Enterprise Board (Guidelines) Direction 1976

The Secretary of State in exercise of his powers under Section 7(1) of the Industry Act 1975, and following consultation with the National Enterprise Board about it, hereby gives the Board the following Direction.

1 This Direction may be cited as the National Enterprise Board (Guidelines) Direction 1976.

2 The Board shall comply with the requirements relating to the Board which are printed in heavy type in the Guidelines and the Annex thereto which are set out in the schedule to this Direction.

ERIC VARLEY
Secretary of State for Industry
17 December 1976

SCHEDULE

NATIONAL ENTERPRISE BOARD GUIDELINES

THE GENERAL APPROACH

The success of the National Enterprise Board (NEB) depends on their having a large measure of operational and commercial freedom. They must have the ability to respond quickly to opportunities and competitive forces. At the same time, the NEB's companies should not be given an unfair competitive advantage, whether through the availability of public funds or other means.

2 The need for operating freedom has to be met within a framework of arrangements for accountability to Ministers and thus to Parliament. Accordingly:

i the Government's oversight will be exercised so far as possible through long-term strategies to be reflected annually in the preparation of medium-term investment plans and year by year budgets;

ii the Government's procedures for assessing the NEB's performance will be clearly defined and will avoid frequent or detailed enquiries;

iii the Government will decide from time to time questions of general application, eg on the terms of finance for the NEB, and on their entitlement to Government financial assistance.

THE FRAMEWORK FOR OVERSIGHT OF THE NEB'S ACTIVITIES

3 The Government will settle with the NEB a framework of objectives and strategy to give effect to the purposes and functions which are set out in the Industry Act 1975, with particular reference to the NEB's role in encouraging industrial efficiency, promoting employment and improving the balance of payments, with special regard to export opportunities. The NEB's strategy will take account of the industrial strategy developed in the National Economic Development Council. (Further details of the NEB's annual planning cycle are set out in the Annex).

Acquisitions and Disposals

4 The Secretary of State intends that in making acquisitions the NEB should have the same opportunities (within an agreed strategy) and the same obligations, and be subject to the same body of good practice, as institutions and companies in private ownership. The NEB and their companies are subject to the fair trading legislation. The Secretary of State has directed the NEB to act in accordance with the City Code on Takeovers and Mergers and, where relevant, the Stock Exchange rules in 'Admission of Securities to Listing'. The NEB have no special powers of compulsory acquisition but they have the same rights to acquire shares as are provided to businesses established under the Companies Act 1948.

5 When the NEB take a holding in a company they will normally seek to do so with the agreement of the company's board. The Government do not accept, however, that the NEB should be able to buy shares in a company only with the agreement of its directors. To do so would place the NEB at a major disadvantage compared with other businesses and would give directors power to override the right of shareholders to sell their shares on a voluntary basis. **Before acquiring, without the agreement of the directors of the company in question, shares or stock in a listed company which give an unrestricted right to vote, and whose acquisition would entitle the NEB to exercise or control the exercise of more than 10 per cent of the votes at any general meeting of the company, the NEB shall give the Secretary of State reasonable notice of their intention to acquire these shares or stock and of the size of holding which they wish to acquire eventually in the company. In addition in the case of any acquisition which raises new or significant policy issues (whether or not the acquisition in one of which notice must be given in accordance with the foregoing requirements of this paragraph) the NEB shall give the Secretary of State reasonable notice of their intentions. After giving notice in accordance with this paragraph the NEB shall wait for a reasonable time before acquiring the shares or stock.** This will give the Secretary of State the opportunity to decide whether to exercise his power of specific direction in relation to that acquisition. **For the purposes of this paragraph a 'listed company' is a company to which Section 33 of the Companies Act 1967 applies.**

6 Section 10 of the Industry Act 1975 requires the NEB and their subsidiaries to obtain the consent of the Secretary of State when the cost of acquiring share capital exceeds £10 million or where the acquisition would give the NEB 30 per cent or more of the voting rights unless the acquisition is covered by a general authority which the Secretary of State has given. (In considering proposals by the NEB the Secretary of State will have regard to the fact that the Panel on Takeovers and Mergers would normally require that a person acquiring 30 per cent or more of the voting stock in a listed company should make an offer for the whole of the stock. It is therefore possible that if the NEB acquired 30 per cent or more of the voting stock they might be committed to further purchases). The Secretary of State has given a statutory general authority under which subsidiaries of the NEB may acquire 30 per cent or more of the share capital in a company providing the acquisition is not opposed by the directors of the company and the cost of the total shareholding in the company does not exceed £0.5 million.

7 **The NEB shall consult the Director General of Fair Trading (who has the duty of making recommendations to the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection about possible mergers qualifying for investigation) before entering into arrangements or transactions which may constitute or result in the creation of mergers qualifying for investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the Fair Trading Act 1973. The NEB shall also use any power they may possess to ensure that their subsidiaries consult the Director General of Fair Trading in the same way.**

8 **Under Section 2(4) of the Industry Act 1975 the NEB have the power to dispose of any securities including voting shares. Before exercising this power, the NEB shall obtain the approval of the Secretary of State to the disposal of any voting shares or stock held by the NEB. The NEB shall also use any power they may possess to ensure that the Secretary of State's approval is obtained by their subsidiaries before those subsidiaries dispose of any such shares or stock which they hold. But the approval of the Secretary of State will not be required for the disposal of voting shares or stock held in a company by a subsidiary of the NEB where the consideration for the disposal does not exceed £0.5 million.**

Other financial commitments: loans, guarantees and joint ventures

9 **The NEB may make loans, provide guarantees, engage in joint ventures or make any other form of financial commitment within a limit of £25 million for each project. Beyond that sum they shall act only with the approval of the Secretary of State, and in all cases where a proposed commitment exceeds £10 million or raises new or significant policy issues the NEB shall give the Secretary of State reasonable notice of their intentions. After giving notice in accordance with this paragraph the NEB shall wait for a reasonable time before acting** to give the Secretary of State the opportunity to intervene to prevent or qualify the exercise of these powers by the NEB.

10 **In deciding on their practice in relation to the debts of their subsidiaries, the NEB shall have regard to the practice of companies in the private sector in relation to the**

debts of their subsidiaries. There will be no Government guarantee to the creditors of a subsidiary of the NEB unless the Government have undertaken a specific commitment in relation to a company's debts.

Interest payments

11 When they are borrowing from the Government for investments on their own initiative the NEB will be charged the current rate of interest for loans from the National Loans Fund (NLF). **In lending to their subsidiaries or other companies except when they are acting on the direction of the Secretary of State under Section 3 of the Industry Act 1975 (see para 18 below), the NEB shall charge a rate of interest not less than that paid by commercial companies of the highest standing when raising finance.**

Criteria for investment

12 **Except when they are acting on the direction of the Secretary of State under Section 3 of the Industry Act 1975, the NEB, in appraising capital projects, whether undertaken by themselves or by their subsidiaries, shall look for an appropriate discounted rate or rates of return on the proposed investment. The NEB in their appraisals shall use such criteria as the Secretary of State may direct.**

13 The White Paper 'The Regeneration of British Industry' (Cmnd 5710) envisaged that the NEB, in formulating their acquisition policy, would derive their main strength from the extension of public ownership into profitable manufacturing industry. **The NEB shall make acquisitions on their own account only when they see the prospect of an adequate rate of return within a reasonable period.** But it is open to the NEB to draw the Department of Industry's attention to investment needs consistent with their strategy when, with appropriate support from Government sources under the Industry Act 1972 or other legislation, there is a prospect of an adequate return on the NEB's own investment. There may also be other occasions when the NEB are directed by the Secretary of State under Section 3 of the Industry Act 1975 to provide assistance to companies in difficulty, and in these cases there may not be a normal return for some time.

Pricing

14 The NEB and their subsidiaries, being in competition with companies in the private sector, will be free to determine prices for products and services in accordance with their own commercial judgement and the requirement to earn an adequate return on capital. They will however be subject in the same way as other companies to any general Government prices policy and to fair trading legislation. **The NEB shall avoid showing undue preference in their trading relationships and shall use any power they may possess to ensure that their subsidiaries also avoid this.**

Counter-inflation policy

15 **The NEB shall use any power they may possess to ensure that the terms and conditions of employment negotiated by their subsidiaries are consistent with the financial situation of the enterprise and with the Government's counter-inflation policy.**

Financial and other objectives

16 The Industry Act 1975 requires the Secretary of State and the Treasury to satisfy themselves that the financial duties imposed on the NEB are likely, taken together, to result in an adequate return on capital employed by the NEB. The NEB are intended to operate primarily within the profitable sectors of manufacturing industry, and their financial objectives will be consistent with their duty of securing the efficient management of the companies in which they have an interest. The NEB's purposes are wider, however, than those of commercial enterprises. They will be in a position to take a long-term view, where appropriate, of their investment opportunities. Nevertheless **in taking investment decisions the NEB shall always have regard to the profitability of the investments.**

17 The NEB's companies will have the same rights as other companies to Government assistance, and be subject to the obligations that derive from it. This assistance includes selective financial assistance, regional development grants, the regional employment premium, and the various other incentives provided by the Department of Employment Group. The NEB's companies will also be eligible for support from the Export Credits Guarantee Department and for support under the Science and Technology Act 1965. On the other hand the NEB and their companies will have the normal liability for taxation except, as provided in the Industry Act 1975, for stamp duty in certain limited circumstances.

18 The NEB may be directed by the Secretary of State under Section 3 of the Industry Act 1975 to assist a company in financial difficulties which needs to be restored to a sound state for reasons of employment or industrial policy. (In some instances a combination of funds on commercial and on assisted terms may be appropriate). In such circumstances the NEB will be reimbursed specifically for their involvement; and to ensure that their financial discipline is not undermined, these activities will be accounted for separately.

19 In many cases it may best serve the interests of the economy and the companies concerned if a high proportion of the profits earned by companies in which the NEB have holdings is retained to finance further investment, provided that this will in turn yield an adequate return. The appropriate share of the retained profits of subsidiary or associated companies of the NEB will be taken into account by the Government in assessing the adequacy of the NEB's financial performance.

20 The Industry Act 1975 authorises the Secretary of State with the approval of the Treasury, to determine different financial duties for different assets and activities of the NEB. The Government will settle with the NEB separate objectives for their main categories of holdings (including individual objectives for the holdings in very large companies such as Rolls Royce (1971) Ltd or British Leyland Ltd) and will determine, in consultation with the NEB, into which category each holding will fall.

Functions undertaken under direction

21 When the NEB assist companies following a direction under Section 3 of the Industry Act 1975, the funds will be a charge on Departmental Votes. It follows that the appropriate Accounting Officers will be answerable to the Public Accounts Committee for having satisfied themselves that the NEB had adequate arrangements for monitoring the financial assistance provided to companies under direction and that they were operating them effectively. The Department will have a duty to satisfy itself before directions are issued that the NEB have adequate resources for the task and can make appropriate arrangements for giving effect to the directions. The NEB will be responsible for their discharge of functions undertaken under directions and shall draw the Secretary of State's attention to any issues that appear to require his consideration.

22 As a general principle the Secretary of State will compensate the NEB for costs incurred in providing services to the Government or in undertaking functions at the Secretary of State's direction under Section 3 of the Industry Act 1975.

THE NEB'S WIDER RESPONSIBILITIES

The NEB's role in planning agreements

23 The NEB will not have access to information about individual companies supplied to the Government in confidence in the context of planning agreements or to other information supplied by companies to the Government about themselves that cannot properly be made available to a third party. On occasion, with the agreement of the company, the NEB may be invited to participate in discussions of particular issues arising during exchanges on, or arising out of, a planning agreement, for example, on the possibility of participation in joint ventures. There may also be occasions when in the light of an assessment of the circumstances of the sector of industry concerned, the Government decide that the NEB should be invited to take a general initiative. But, when involving the NEB, the Government will have a duty to ensure that information supplied in confidence by individual companies about their affairs is withheld from the NEB.

The NEB's employment responsibilities

24 The White Paper 'The Regeneration of British Industry' stated that the NEB was to be an instrument through which the Government would operate directly to create employment in areas of high unemployment. The Industry Act 1975 reflects this by providing that one of the NEB's purposes is the provision, maintenance or safeguarding of productive employment in any part of the United Kingdom.

25 The NEB's main help to the areas of high unemployment will come as a result of their own initiatives. But the NEB will also discharge these responsibilities in pursuance of directions made by the Secretary of State to provide assistance from time to time to companies in financial or managerial difficulties. The Government will provide incentives to development by the NEB and their companies in areas of high unemployment through use of the existing powers of regional assistance under the Industry Act 1972 in accordance with the guidelines and criteria for this assistance and within the provision approved by Parliament.

26 **The NEB shall make appropriate arrangements, to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, to ensure that:**

i **the NEB can effectively discharge their employment responsibilities in areas of high unemployment, including action through regional offices in the North East and North West of England;**

ii **in considering the expansion of an existing operation or the development of a new undertaking, the NEB examine the case for location in an area of high unemployment with a particular intent to site the development if possible in such an area.**

27 The NEB and their companies will be subject to the normal industrial development certificate and planning controls and the Secretary of State will keep the NEB closely informed of the Government's employment objectives so that the NEB's plans may take full account of them. In considering the NEB's strategic plans the Secretary of State will have regard to their implications for employment.

Relations with other Agencies

28 **The NEB shall develop effective arrangements for consultation and collaboration with the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland Development Agencies. These arrangements shall be such as to ensure that the NEB consult the Agencies before taking action on proposals affecting companies with significant interests in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.** The Agencies will take the initiative in dealing with companies which are wholly or predominantly of concern to them but will consult the NEB as necessary.

Industrial democracy

29 **The Industry Act 1975 states that one of the functions of the NEB is the promotion of industrial democracy in undertakings which they control. The NEB shall make appropriate arrangements with their subsidiaries, to the satisfaction of the Government, to ensure that management in these undertakings is playing its part in furthering Government policies in this field. The NEB shall however have freedom to conduct experiments in the light of their own needs and experience and the views of the workers concerned.**

Interests of consumers

30 **The NEB and their companies are subject to fair trading legislation and to the Government's general prices policy in the same way as other companies. The NEB shall use any power they may possess to ensure that the interests of consumers are properly taken into account by their subsidiaries.**

Interest in the media

31 **The Industry Act 1975 obliges the NEB to dispose of any interest they may acquire**

in a newspaper, magazine or periodical unless the Secretary of State considers that this would cause serious commercial injury to the publication, and to obey any direction given by the Independent Broadcasting Authority in respect of any contract for the provision of programmes which they may acquire. The Act also requires the NEB to limit their influence to financial and commercial matters in any interests which they retain: in such circumstances the NEB shall make appropriate arrangements, to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, to ensure that they have no responsibility for, or influence on, editorial functions.

Parliamentary control
32 The Secretary of State will be answerable to Parliament for the exercise of powers provided under the Industry Act 1975. But in accordance with the general principle that the NEB should have commercial and operating freedom, the Secretary of State will not use his powers of specific direction to intervene in day-to-day matters.

Industrial Development Advisory Board (IDAB)
33 The Industry Act 1975 provides that the role of the Industrial Development Advisory Board, in advising the Secretary of State in respect of the exercise of his functions under Section 7 or Section 8 of the Industry Act 1972 shall extend to his functions under Section 3 of the Industry Act 1975. IDAB will give advice on all applications which might subsequently be the subject of a Section 3 direction to the NEB.

ANNEX

GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT OF THE NEB

Annual planning cycle
1 **Each year the NEB shall prepare, and submit to the Secretary of State, a Corporate Plan setting out their strategy for the following years.** The review of this Plan will provide the opportunity for discussions with the Department covering such matters as financial targets; investment (and the proportion of investment in Assisted Areas); employment; improvements in efficiency; and exports. The NEB's performance over the year will be assessed in the light of objectives agreed in these discussions.
2 **As part of their planning cycle, the NEB shall provide annually an investment and financing programme covering the period of the Public Expenditure Survey, for consideration by the Department in conjunction with the Treasury.** This annual submission will provide an opportunity for the Department of Industry and the NEB to have detailed discussions on the measures needed to meet the NEB's objectives. Given the wide range of activities which will be undertaken by the NEB, the annual review will be divided into parts relating to:

a existing NEB holdings (with particular attention to the activities of large companies);
b acquisitions, joint ventures and new ventures;
c assistance operations;

with a discussion of the balance between them.
3 The annual discussions will also enable the Department of Industry in consultation with the Treasury, to set a ceiling to the amount of Government funds the NEB will receive by way of advances from the National Loans Fund or Public Dividend Capital (PDC), during the next financial year. Within this ceiling sums will be advanced to the NEB on proof of need.

Approval of major decisions
4 The annual review, in contrast with that of a typical nationalised industry (which has a clearly defined on-going business) will not provide a comprehensive basis for settling the main lines of the NEB's activities. Opportunities for investment, whether by acquisition, joint venture, or new venture, will occur throughout the year: they cannot be fully planned far in advance. For this reason Ministers will make special arrangements for consultation with the NEB about major decisions.

Retention of profits
5 After allowing for interest on borrowings from the NLF and divided payments on PDC, the NEB will be able to apply their profits to furthering their statutory purposes, subject to the constraints on individual cases set out in the Guidelines.

Relations with very large companies
6 Major NEB companies will fall within the scope of the planning agreement system. The agreement will be with the company concerned but negotiations will take place within a framework of reference that the company has settled with the NEB.
7 The Government will take a close interest in the performance, plans and prospects of the very large companies whose shares are vested in the NEB, such as British Leyland Ltd or Rolls Royce (1971) Ltd. This reflects the undertaking given to the House of Commons by the then Prime Minister on 24 April 1975 that British Leyland 'will be required to put forward annual business plans before further funds are provided covering improvement in industrial relations and productivity and putting forward precise investment and operating programmes for specific Government approval within the new system of planning agreements ... The aim will be to satisfy the criteria for the provision of public funds on such a vast scale while at the same time allowing the company to operate on an effective commercial basis without day-to-day Government intervention'.

Advance factory terrace units to be built at Sandon Dock

Work will begin soon on the construction of an advance factory for the Department of Industry at Sandon Dock, Liverpool, Merseyside. This factory will be a block of six terrace units totalling about 1,350m² (15,000 sq ft).

A contract worth about £211,000, which includes site development works, has been awarded by the English Industrial Estates Corporation to Wm. Hall and Son (Merseyside) Ltd, of Birkdale, Merseyside. Architects are the Gilling Dod Partnership of Liverpool and quantity surveyors are E. C. Harris and Partners, also of Liverpool.

Work is to start immediately and the premises should be ready for occupation by July 1977. Inquiries regarding lease should be addressed to: Mr P. G. Forsdike, Department of Industry, North West Region, Sunley Building, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4BA (tel. 061-236 2171 ext. 646).

Patents endorsed 'Licences of Right'

Under Section 35 of the Patents Act 1949 the following patents were endorsed 'Licences of Right' on the date specified.

Number	Grantee	Subject-matter
7 December 1976		
1,148,910	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd	Improvements in or relating to telecommunication exchanges
1,201,630	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd	Improvements in or relating to telecommunication exchanges
1,232,699	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd	Radio beacon
1,279,361	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd	Frequency changing device
1,304,268	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd	Image display device
1,328,612	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd	Optical fibre manufacture
1,362,770	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd	Digital force balance
1,335,701	Coal Industry (Patents) Ltd	Circuit arrangement for detecting an insulation fault in a battery housing
1,343,297	Coal Industry (Patents) Ltd	Support clip for radio-frequency-transmission line cable
1,401,357	International Standard Electric Corporation	Radio-frequency receiving circuit
1,404,966	International Standard Electric Corporation	Gas discharge display panel apparatus
1,098,468	Societe Suisse Pour L'Industrie Horlogere SA	An integrated electronic circuit
1,152,367	Societe Suisse Pour L'Industrie Horlogere SA	Integrated electronic circuit
1,106,763	Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft	Improved silver complex diffusion transfer process
1,285,078	Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft	Novel Monoazamonomethine cyanines and silver halide emulsions which contain colour couplers and which are spectrally sensitised therewith
1,422,794	Swan Hunter Group Ltd, and William Andrew Noble	Ship's stern bush
1,438,144	Swan Hunter Group Ltd, and William Andrew Noble	Ship's stern boss
1,067,211	Cannon Electric (Great Britain) Ltd, and Anthony James Thornton, and George Garbutt	Improvements in or relating to electrical connector elements
1,233,978	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen	Improvements in or relating to motor vehicle bodies including head lining assemblies
1,315,643	Pernod Equipment International SA	Improvements in or relating to a device in a vending machine for dispensing rollable articles
1,437,497	Lawrence Richard Damour	Expandable mandrel or chuck
1,442,415	British Chrome and Chemicals Ltd	Sodium sulphate compositions and their production

Any person who claims that the patentee at the time of endorsement of any of the above patents was precluded by a contract in which claimant is interested from granting licences under the patents may apply for cancellation of the endorsement on Patent Form No. 45 within two months after the date of endorsement.

E. Armitage
Comptroller

The rubber industry shapes up to the future

Britain is again taking a lead in the rubber industry. And at the Manchester factory where the manufacturing process for polymer coated fabrics was developed more than 150 years ago.

Dunlop, through its northern-based GRG – general rubber goods – division, has developed a range of specialised fabrications from liferafts and other inflatables to the prospect almost of cities in the sea.

It is a development that has been gradual but continual.

But now, says Dunlop, 'we're making the running.'

'The world is once again on the threshold of a new era in the discovery of the uses of rubber – or more properly, polymer – technology,' according to Michael Wainwright, director, GRG division.

Apart from the divisional HQ and main factory at Cambridge Street, Manchester, Dunlop's adventures in an extensive area of fabrications have centred also on factories at Hindley Green, near Wigan, Skelmersdale and Wrexham. They have included offshore oil and nuclear energy, bulk liquid transport and anti-oil pollution. The results have been equally varied – reservoir linings, mine seals, flexible towing containers, giant dock fenders.

The wealth of untapped oil in the Arctic has suggested a 'custom-built' island chain which would allow for work all the year round. A ring of islands in 30m of water, supported by rubber bags filled with sand.

Fill the same sort of bags with garbage instead of sand and places like Los Angeles solve their problems of waste disposal and land reclamation in one.

It is not nearly as futuristic as it sounds.

Today Dunlop GRG division has a turnover of between £25 million and £30 million. About a fifth is in the rubber fabrications range.

'Comparatively small, perhaps,' says Mr Wainwright, 'but growing fast.'

Fed back as tools

By way of background to their shaping up of the rubber industry for the future, Dunlop makes the point that materials which originate as products of the petrochemical industry are now being fed back as tools for the industry from which they originate. The technology of the modern manufacturing process, says GRG's technical, sales and development manager at Manchester, Fred Baynes, has emerged from the ability of the GRG division to 'process and take full advantage of the unique properties of these modern materials.'

The industries served by GRG are diverse and their requirements just as varied. As a product with a 'lively and worldwide market,' however, Mr Baynes suggests the flexible container for liquids and gases. Examples of their use are the storage of carbon dioxide in breweries and the storage of helium at meteorological institutes.

'An over-riding consideration leading to the use of flexible containers for gas containment,' he emphasises, 'is the absolute exclusion of air contamination during the filling and emptying operations.'

Another use of the containers is as small pneumatic cushions, filling spaces in cargo holds and preventing shifting and damage during shipment.

Many of Dunlop's new developments have originated in the offshore oil business and are still in a continuing state of evolution after the successful operation of prototypes. All have come about because of the company's ability as consultants to the petrochemical industry. In the Frigg gas field, off the Norwegian coast, for example, where structures made entirely of concrete are used, engineers have been able to modify the pipe entry into the rig to avoid hyperbaric welding. The problem was to achieve a seal between the pipe and the entry tunnel. The development was a zip collar placed by divers around the pipeline at its point of entry and fastened to the base of the rig to make a flexible seal which will withstand the pressures occurring in 100m depth, or more, of water.

Unconventional solutions to problems are very much the order of the day.

Underwater support

Engineering dilemmas in the Frigg field have also led to a new concept in underwater support and protection, developed by the GRG division with the international consulting engineers Brown and Root and Taylor Diving. A specially fabricated GRG container lying on the sea bed is filled to a predetermined pressure and shape with liquid grouting cement. The practice has resulted in 'enormous cost savings over conventional techniques.' Another major area in GRG's developments is that of seals – for giant rigid storage tanks in the petrochemical industry and in overcoming the problems of air exclusion and vapour suppression. Most applications to date have been in electricity generating equipment, but these oxygen exclusion seals are also being increasingly incorporated for improving corrosive containment in hot water pressure circuits, both for industrial use and for domestic central heating. For the nuclear power industry Dunlop has developed a special airtight seal to prevent contamination in systems where the complete exclusion of atmospheric pollutants is essential.

In the marine and offshore industries, a natural outlet for the production of coated fabrics has been the developing market for inflatable liferafts. Dunlop liferafts are basically 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 20 and 25 man in capacity. The latest to come from the Hindley Green factory is a composite inflatable and glass fibre craft, fast and manoeuvrable, designed with patrol and general work boat duties in mind.

Equally at home in the water is the Dracone barge, a flexible, towable structure originally envisaged for the commercial transport at sea of oil and fresh water but in use in many parts of the world today for military purposes (oil and fresh water), commercial fresh water, commercial oil, land storage (and lake towing), fuel and water supplement, oil pollution storage. The Dracone is more than a floating bag, it is a heavily rubber proofed nylon seagoing vessel, hydrodynamically designed with moulded ends, capable of easy towing even at high speeds. Low pressure inflatable fenders, for ship-to-ship and ship-to-shore fendering, were a direct spin-off from the Dracone barge and immediately successful.

The LP fender system can literally be tailor made, according to Dunlop. No other system can offer low volume storage, ease of transportation and 'kindness' to thin hulled vessels, the company claims.

The company also intends to concentrate on a range of new inflatable buoys for use where conditions are exceptionally tough such as semi-submersible rigs, pipe pay vessels and general marker buoys.

'Dunlop GRG division is in the marine safety business be it passengers, crews or the protection of ships,' says Neil Keene, the division's marine consultant.

The Dracone barge, incidentally, is one of two products in the fabrications group that have been playing important roles in the development of pollution control packages. The other is the collapsible container, developed in conjunction with the Department of Industry's Warren Spring Laboratory, to deal with small spillages normally dispersed by spray detergent.

Large spillages are collected by a miscellany of systems which deploy round the slick and then skim or extract the oil from the surface of the water. A Dracone barge can then receive collected spillage and be towed safely back to base. Alternatively it could carry the concentrated dispersant to site where large quantities are needed to deal with a big spill.

Pollution control

Dunlop is working closely with a number of major oil pollution control equipment companies as well as with the oil companies.

Turning from sea to land, one of the most active sides of the fabrication business has become the production of rubber membranes of various polymers, used as an impermeable flexible layer for containing liquids for agricultural irrigation, industrial use and such specialised applications as fire fighting containment reservoirs. The membranes are made from sheets of polymer joined together to meet the contours of the site . . . a quick, inexpensive storage method.

The market for mobile and static containment of fuel and other industrial liquids is also wide. The containers, or tanks, are constructed as flat envelopes from strong two-ply reinforced fabric with a variety of different polymer coatings on the inside and weather resistant polychloroprene on the outside. They can take any type of fuel and have been the subject of major contracts for GRG. Finally, moving below ground, a mine roadway seal has been developed by the division as a means of effectively blocking a gallery in time of disaster. The seal can be packed into a valise and carried by a few men. Inflated it takes the shape of the gallery, filling up to 5m diameter and effectively blocking the tunnel for some 8m. It is at present being tested by the NCB. Dunlop sees it having applications throughout the world.

For an expanding market

1 A range of Dunlop Gemini and Searover inflatable boats at the GRG Hindley Green factory.

2 A pressurised air lock, manufactured by GRG division, Manchester, as used for entering hostile environments such as those found within a chemical processing plant.

3 Dunlop work in the development of ship-to-ship and ship-to-shore soft fendering.

4 Dunlop's rubber and steel prototype island project – a 15.24m (50 ft) high flexible wall housed beneath a steel deck.

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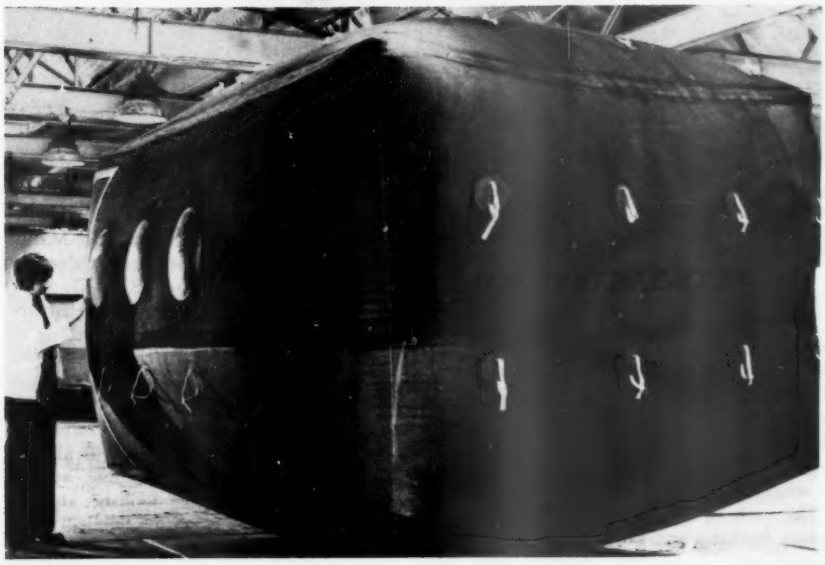

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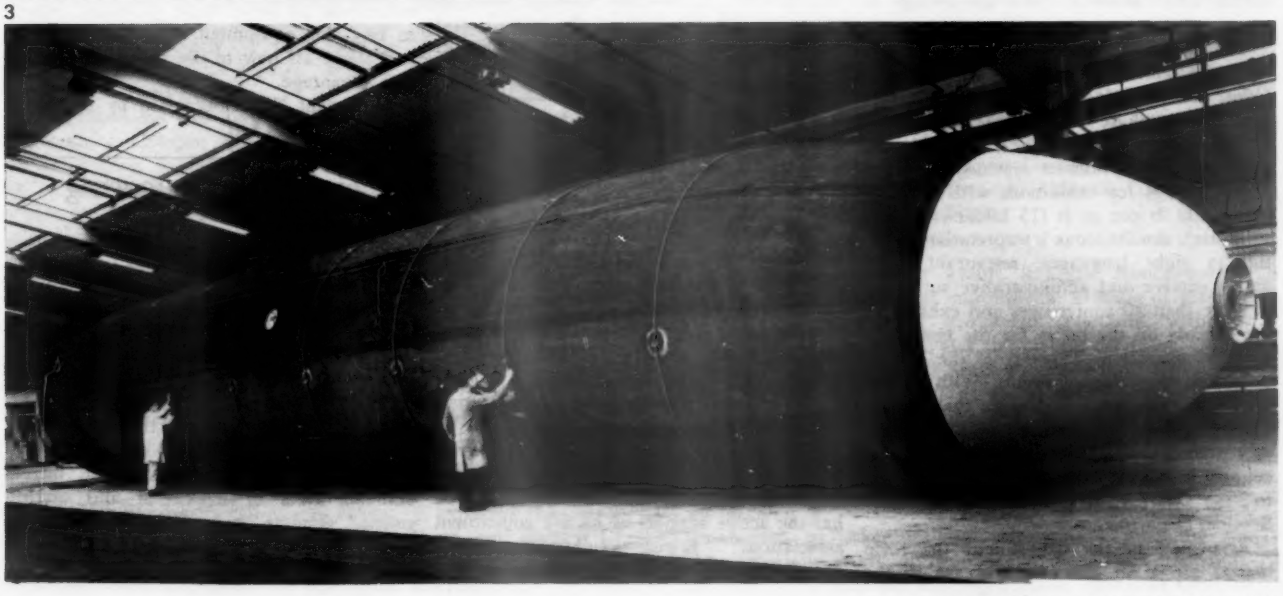


Home exhibitions

£22m income from exhibition-conference programme

Improved exhibition and conference facilities in the new year could earn Brighton £22 million by late 1979, it is estimated.

The south coast resort, with its reputation as an international conference centre long established, plans a considerable extension of exhibition facilities with the opening, by mid-1977, of the £8½ million conference, exhibition and entertainment centre now coming to completion along the sea front.

The building will add 30 per cent to the resort's existing exhibition space. It will more than double the municipal exhibition area. Brighton's main exhibition areas at present are the Hotel Metropole, with eight conference-exhibition halls providing nearly 8,000 sq metres of space, and the council-owned Corn Exchange and Pavilion Theatre between them offering a further 1,100 sq metres.

The new centre, with its opening planned for mid-July, will offer attractive exhibition facilities covering about 2,700 sq metres.

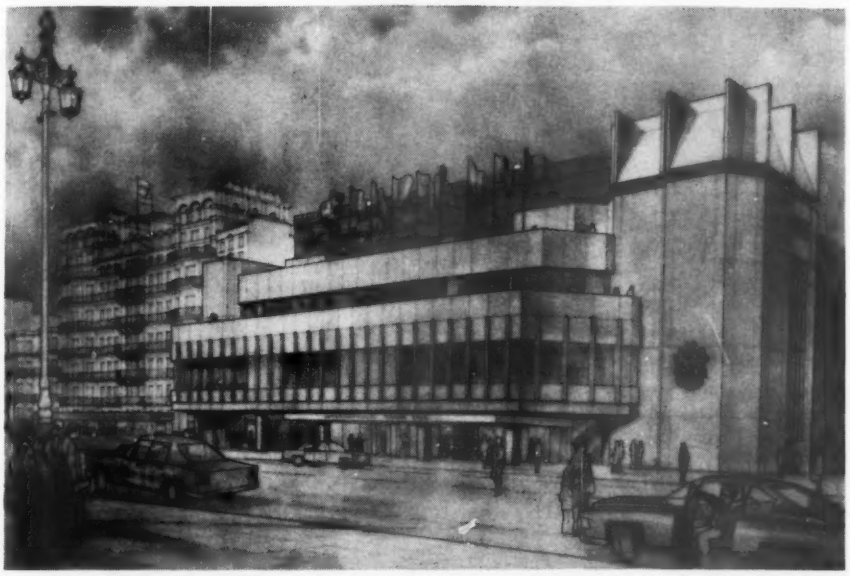
Built on five levels, the Brighton Centre will have a main hall rising through three of them which, with its balconies, will seat up to 5,000 delegates or provide nearly 2,000 sq metres of display area. A secondary hall, next to it, will have another 750 sq metres for exhibitions, or seating for up to 800. Additional display space could be available from the foyers and the mass media area between them amounting to nearly 2,000 sq metres.

The mass media area will have studio space for television, press and wire services. Other features of the fully air-conditioned centre will include full servicing of all exhibition areas with power, water, telephone and drainage, public address systems, adequate floor loadings for exhibitions with areas of up to 300 lb per sq ft (15 kilonewtons per sq metre), simultaneous interpretation facilities in eight languages, restaurant, bars, and executive and administrative suites.

More than 30 conferences and exhibitions are already on the books for the first three years of operation. Thirteen of the conferences are international events. With a total anticipated attendance of more than 52,000 delegates and associated visitors, their estimated value to Brighton and to the country is more than £5 million, according to the town's Resort and Conference Services Department.

According to the department the town should see a 50 per cent increase in the numbers of exhibition and conference visitors by the end of 1979 and they will bring an income, at present rates, of at least £22 million to the town over the three years. In the three years to the end of 1975, 755 conferences and exhibitions brought more than 250,000 visitors to the resort. In the three years beginning 1977, it is estimated, the total should grow to nearly 400,000.

'The new centre will greatly augment present facilities and make Brighton a truly international convention centre, able to compete with the best in the world', says Tony Hewison, Director, Brighton Resort and Conference Services.



An artist's impression of the Brighton Centre. The main hall will seat up to 5,000 delegates, or offer nearly 2,000m² of exhibition space. There will be more display space in a secondary hall.

Movement '77 to be UK's biggest handling show

Movement '77, the International Mechanical Handling Exhibition at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, 16 to 21 May, is being promoted as the largest event of its kind ever held in the UK.

The exhibition is sponsored by the Federation of Associations of Materials Handling Manufacturers (FAMHM) in conjunction with the IPC Industrial Press journal Materials Handling News. As the sponsoring trade association, the federation has the active support of its five constituent associations: British Industrial Truck Association (BITA), Lifting Equipment Manufacturers' Association (LEMA), Mechanical Handling Engineer's Association (MHEA), Association of Scissor Lift Manufacturers (ASLM) and Storage Equipment Manufacturers' Association (SEMA).

The show will be 'a complete departure from our previous exhibitions', according to Dennis Hunter, president of FAMHM. 'We have combined our exhibition with the conference of the Institute of Materials Handling and the Institution of Production Engineers. Alongside this there will also be many specialist services available at the exhibition so that visitors will be able to discuss their problems with technical consultants and thus discover the best types of equipment to solve these problems, where to buy this equipment, how to finance it and above all how to use the equipment to best advantage.

Movement '77 is organised by Industrial and Trade Fairs Ltd.

Specialised engineering

Inspex 77, at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, from 28 March to 1 April 1977, will cover the entire field of inspection, testing, metrology, quality control and assurance. At least 40 new products will be on show for the first time.

Admission to the exhibition is free to all levels of engineering management, buyers and operators of inspection and quality control systems and all concerned with research, design, development, education and training in engineering.

Bigger display for woodworking industries international

Eighty per cent of the total space at IWIE 77, Britain's third International Woodworking Industries Exhibition (27 October to 2 November 1977), has already been allocated. The exhibition will be at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, and present an even larger and more comprehensive display of machinery and components than was mounted at the last IWIE in November 1975.

IWIE has the full support of the Woodworking Machinery Section of the Machine Tool Trades Association, of EUMABOIS and the Woodworking Machinery Importers' Association, member of IMAB. IWIE is also a member of the Union des Foires Internationales and the Association of Exhibition Organisers.

According to the organiser, the exhibition looks like being a truly international show – 20 per cent bigger than the last one and covering 11,000m² net.

Details are available from IWIE 77, 11 Manchester Square, London W1M 5AB; tel. 01-486 1951; telex 24591 MontexG.

Wembley again for Compec UK

The Wembley Centre, London, will be the venue for Compec UK 1977, the computer peripherals exhibition, to be held 8-10 November. Its specialised field will embrace minicomputers, microprocessors, miniperipherals and terminals, an area characterised by rapid growth both in technology and in the size of the market.

With the 1977 show, responsibility for organising Compec passes from Trident Conferences to Iliffe Promotions Ltd. The new organisers are the IPC Business Press specialist exhibition company and Compec UK is sponsored jointly by IPC journals *Computer Weekly*, *Electronics Weekly*, *Data Processing* and *Electron*.

Iliffe Promotions will also be responsible for organising Compec Europe, the European companion to the UK event, to be held at the Centre International Rogier, Brussels, on 10, 11 and 12 May 1977.

UK carpet trade fairs

The council meeting of the British Carpet Manufacturers' Association, in London on 24 November, agreed that the following fairs would be officially sponsored by the association in 1977: Northern Floorcoverings Fair, Harrogate, in September and the Spring Floorcoverings Exhibition, Brighton in February.

It was agreed that talks should be held with the organisers to up-grade the Harrogate event to an international show, with a new title. It was also proposed to increase the overseas promotion activities to attract more export customers and to organise a central agency arrangement covering hotel and travel facilities to assist overseas buyers to visit Harrogate.

Lifting contractor appointment

Giltspur Bullens Transport Services announces that its depot at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, has been appointed official lifting contractor for seven major shows at the NEC in 1977. They are the Spring Fair in February, Parkex in March, Interplas in September, Interbuild in November, and Mechanical Handling, International Mining and Filtech.

Major contract work for a number of exhibitions has already been handled by the depot since it was opened last spring and orders are currently being placed for exhibitions throughout 1977 and into 1978.

The company can provide heavy lifting services, transport to and from the site, storage, freight forwarding and customs clearance for overseas exhibitors as well as general hire and site administration.

Venues, dates for electronics shows

The 1977 London Electronic Instrument Exhibition sponsored by the Electronic Promotion Group and organised by Industrial and Trade Fairs Ltd, will again be held at the Bloomsbury Centre Hotel, from 11-13 October.

The EPG's annual regional exhibition moves next year to Coventry and will be staged at the Esso Hotel on 5-6 October.

Applications for space to: Eric Gosden, Industrial and Trade Fairs Ltd, Radcliffe House, Blenheim Court, Solihull, West Midlands (tel. 021-705 6707, telex 337073).

Engineering in Scotland

The 2nd Scottish Engineering Exhibition will be held in the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, 1 to 5 March 1977. On show will be a full range of machine tools, welding plant, mechanical and electrical equipment and components, electronic components essential to engineering production and hydraulic and pneumatic equipment. The organisers are Scottish and Industrial Trade Exhibition Ltd.

Alongside the Scottish Enginering event will be a similar exhibition to that of last September, at the National Exhibition Centre, for the subcontracting industries. It is expected that buyers who are needing to 'farm out' aspects of their production to the subcontracting industry will be especially interested.

In brief . . .

Car event: Next year's Fleet Motor Show will be at the Wembley Centre from 25 to 28 October. The event is sponsored by the transport weekly *Motor Transport* and brings together specialist dealers in company cars and the suppliers of ancillary services. Combined with the show will be the Car Fleet Management Conference, also a *Motor Transport* event.

Hardware Promotion: The second edition of 'Britain's 1977 Hardware Show' has been distributed by the British Hardware Promotion Council Ltd, to all exhibitors in the hardware section of next year's International Spring Fair, 6 to 10 February, at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. In addition to a report that all space in halls 2 and 5 has been taken there is an announcement that, to avoid spiralling costs, the British Hardware Promotion Council will allow exhibitors at the 1977 fair the opportunity of retaining the same site for 1978.

Sound shows: Sound and communications over the whole range of applications – entertainment, hotels, hospitals, traffic control, crime detection, electronic timing devices and score boards for sporting events – is the theme for the Southern Sound Shows to be held at the Holiday Inn, Plymouth, Wednesday, 19 January 1977, and the Maison Royale, Bournemouth, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 25 to 27 January 1977. The exhibitions are organised by the Association of Public Address Engineers, 47 Windsor Road, Slough, Berks.

Gardens and leisure: The 1977 International Garden and Leisure Exhibition, GLEE, to be held at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham from 30 October to 2 November, will be at least 50 per cent larger than the 1976 event. The exhibition will again be sponsored by Gardenex, Hardware Manufacturers Association, Horticultural Trades Association and Leisure and Outdoor Furniture Association. Inquiries to Inter Garden Promotions Ltd, Columbia House, 69 Aldwych, London WC2, tel. 01-405 3998.

Specialist event: Realistic demonstrations as well as conventional exhibits of machinery and equipment concerned with the handling and treatment of farm animal waste will be major features of the second national farm waste management demonstration to be held at the National Agricultural Centre on 6 to 7 May 1977.

Popularly known as Muck '77, the event is organised by the Royal Agricultural Society of England in conjunction with other leading organisations including the Agricultural Development and Advisory Service and Agricultural Research Council.

New products

Metric push-in fittings

Kay Pneumatics Ltd, of Dunstable, introduced a range of metric push-in fittings providing enhanced gripping power on metric sizes of nylon tubing, and offering cost savings over their dual standard predecessors.

The new 'SuperGrip' fittings are similar in appearance to the company's dual standard metric/imperial Multifit units, but carry an identifying annulus machined into the front face.

The design incorporates three barbs giving increased gripping power to accommodate wider tolerances in tubing diameter, wall thickness and material hardness. It also provides a support ring at the nose of the inserts to help prevent distortion of inserted tubing when in close proximity to tight bends.

Metric push-in fittings from Kay Pneumatics.

Safety pressure tests on Kay push-in fittings have confirmed that 4mm nylon tubing, for instance, will start to balloon at around 200 bar (3000 lbf/in²), but it will not blow out of the insert. SuperGrip inserts can be pressed into counterbores in any equipment employing pneumatics to facilitate speedy, efficient and space saving plumbing with nylon tubing. An external barb on the inserts gives a controlled interference fit when the insert is pressed into a housing of the specified diameter.

Cutting filing costs

A competitively priced individual suspension file has been added by Stanley Gibbons Products Ltd to its 'Advance' product range. Known as the 'Advance Leafadex', it is made from hard wearing manilla board, with permanently fixed metal runners and nylon tips and complete with clear-view plastic tabs. It is in foolscap size. Discounts are available for quantities. A free sample can be had from Stanley Gibbons Products Ltd, Stan Gibb House, Sarehole Road, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 8EE (tel. 021-777 7255).

Specially suited to containerisation

A pallet box offering a choice of bases, each permitting four-way entry, is announced by the heavy duty division of Thames Case, Moulton Way, Northampton.

Called Rokbox, it is made from heavy duty corrugated fibreboard and said to be of simple construction, consisting of sleeve, lid and base, allowing rapid assembly and loading.

Rokbox is available with either a composite polystyrene/timber pallet base for lightness and ease of handling or, for heavier weights, a conventional timber pallet base. Standard sizes are held in stock. Other sizes can be made to order.

Rokbox is specially suited to containerisation and air-freight and can be treated to comply with Australian and New Zealand regulations.

New pallet box from Thames Case.

Vane pumps for food processing

A versatile hygiene pump for the food processing industry introduced by the Alfa-Laval Co Ltd, Brentford is reported to be particularly suited for soft or delicate products.

The RG 803 vane pump is a stainless steel, positive displacement pump with capacity (up to 350 litres/92 gallons per minute depending on the product) directly proportional to the speed of the pump. The vane, made of Delrin plastics, runs freely in a groove in the pump shaft and, as the shaft rotates, directs the product through the pump. The system can also operate in reverse and the pump used for filling a tank or vessel, then emptying after heating or cooling, without the need to disconnect.

An optional variable speed drive allows an adjustment of the pump shaft between 22 r/min and 150 r/min, and ensures gentle and more selective handling of a broad range of food products than alternative food systems.

Base-hinged lighting columns

A prototype Grandelume Abacus base-hinged lighting column.

A range of economically priced, patented base-hinged lighting columns has recently been introduced to home and overseas markets by Abacus Municipal Ltd, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts.

Called Multilume, the range consists of eleven columns, varying in mounting heights from 5 to 25 metres (15 ft to 80 ft). With the exception of the Petitlume 5 and 8 metre high columns – designed for single lantern assembly – the columns have been planned to carry multi lantern clusters.

The range is in octagonal, tapered shaft sections of pressed steel and simple to slot together on the factory floor or on site. The makers claim also that the series is much lower in capital costs than conventional column floodlighting systems.

Technology news

Waste oil – the case for recovery

It should be possible to reclaim about 65,000 tons of waste oil a year, which is not at present being recovered. This is one of the main conclusions in a report from the Waste Management Advisory Council published this week.

On the basis of its own case study of waste oil, the council has concluded that already the recovery rate of waste oil in the UK is fairly good; out of half a million tons of waste oil, approximately 70 per cent is recovered for various secondary uses. Of the remaining 30 per cent, some is so heavily contaminated that disposal by landfill or incineration seems the only practical means of dealing with it. This leaves an estimated 65,000 tons a year of reasonably high quality waste oil which could in theory be reclaimed.

If this could be achieved, it would represent a saving of net national resources of at least £1.0-£2.3 million a year, allowing for the cost of collection and processing, which would lead to a corresponding improvement in the balance of payments.

On the practical side there are problems. There is uncertainty about the best means of collection and disposal for do-it-yourself motorists and the individual quantities are small; with industrial waste oil, there are technical and economic barriers to dealing with contamination by other wastes.

In the case of the do-it-yourself motorists, the report suggests storage points at convenient collection centres such as civic amenity sites or local garages, with extensive publicity about how these facilities should be used. Remedies have also been found for contamination of some industrial wastes, as mentioned in the technical memorandum on the disposal of mineral oil wastes recently published by the Department of the Environment. Meanwhile the rise in oil prices should make it relatively more worthwhile for re-refiners and fuel processors to offer better prices and so encourage reclamation.

The director of the National Anti-Waste Programme at the Department of Industry is discussing with the recovery industry how far they can help.

He is also starting discussions on the possible modification of any specifications and testing requirements which at present inhibit the use of recycled oils. In addition it is hoped that a handbook, which will shortly be issued, will help voluntary organisations and local authorities to decide whether they can provide collection facilities and sell the oil they recover through trade outlets.

The report also presents a framework within which economic studies of waste commodities can be undertaken, and alternative strategies evaluated. The methods employed in the waste oil case study were found to be generally applicable to other commodities and the council is now looking for reclamation possibilities for a range of materials in the same way.

The Waste Management Advisory Council is chaired jointly by Kenneth Marks and Robert Cryer, Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State at the Department of the Environment and the Department of Industry respectively. It was set up as a result of the green paper 'War on Waste' (Cmnd 5727) and has been in existence for two years.

'An Economic Case Study of Waste Oil and its Wider Significance' can be obtained from HMSO, price 60p.

Young engineers competition

Part of the poster advertising a competition for engineers between 16 and 19 years old is shown below. Apprentices already working with companies under training schemes are eligible. Competitors are asked to produce a device (not a drawing or diagram) or fabricate a piece of mechanical apparatus, electronic or chemical equipment (or a working model of it if the full size would not be easily transportable) which would benefit industrial production, have commercial potential, save waste, make better use of energy sources, or improve an existing mechanical, electrical or chemical process. The top two winners will fly by Concorde to America, to tour leading engineering projects, and there are several other prizes. Entries can be accepted up until 1 February 1977. The competition is sponsored by PETT (Project-Engineers and Technologists for Tomorrow. Further details: Young Engineer for Britain, Daily Express, Fleet Street, London EC4P 4JT.

Longer lasting bearings – new work at NCT

Ball bearings may now be made to last longer by following advice from the National Centre of Tribology at Risley.

It is already known that rolling contact bearings tend to fail, eventually, due to surface fatigue of the tracks in which they run. With a particular type of bearing under a given set of conditions, the length of life seems to depend on the oil film thickness between the balls and the raceway.

Now recent work by SKF Industries has shown how this life, in some circumstances, seems to depend on the cleanliness of the lubricant. Provided the oil film thickness is adequate, if an oil circulation and fine filtration system is used, the fatigue life of the bearings can be increased considerably. The latest newsletter from NCT comments that, while it is not a practical proposition to use oil circulation systems on the majority of ball bearings, there must be many critical cases in large plants where it would have considerable advantages.

It is obviously better to prevent failure rather than simply predicting it. Instead of taking a plant to pieces at predetermined intervals, a new technique, known as ferrography, now makes it possible to monitor the condition of a plant, without the unnecessary dismantling of machinery implicit in a regular planned maintenance programme.

This could be done, in the past, by spectrographic analysis of oil samples or the use of magnetic plugs. Ferrography is however more sophisticated, since it involves separating magnetic wear debris from a lubricant sample, and arranging it, according to size, on a transparent slide for examination in an optical or scanning electron microscope.

The lubricant circulating carries wear particles and these give a good indication of the condition of the moving parts of the machine. NCT is exploring the industrial applications of ferrography and would like to hear from any firms where this technique might have relevance.

Further information from: D. Evans, NCT, UKAEA, Risley, Warrington, WA3 6AT (tel. Warrington 31244 ext. 3522).

Mobile work platform

The problem of examining the underside of overhead motorways and their concrete support structures, in places where they cross canals and rivers, has now been made easier by John Rusling Ltd, of Newport by combining two of the firm's products.

Essentially it meant constructing a mobile low-level bridge structure from Rusling 'Instant' scaffold units and using it to support a Rusling 'Air-lift', an automatic, self-contained telescopic work platform capable of lifting a workman to the required height and position for carrying out the inspection work.

To span the canal, a 14.6m long by 2.43m wide bridge with an extension at each end was assembled and floated across to the opposite bank, with two 40 gallon drums lashed inside the bridge structure.

When the bridge and extensions were secured the 'Air-lift' was passed on to it direct from the transport truck.

The 'Air-lift' is 11.0m high and, like others in the range, is operated by means of self-contained compressed air cylinders and foot-controlled, by the operator, from the work platform. This is suitable for inspection and maintenance work as it leaves the operator's hands free for work.

Total erection and dismantling time, using six men, took only 1¼ hours.

The 14.6m long scaffold, spanning a canal, provides a mobile base for the telescopic work platform, making it possible to reach the underside of a motorway bridge.

Oil pollution – skimming the surface

Although oil pollution is often associated with ocean-going tankers, the extent of this problem is small compared with the effects of the pollution due to oil spillage in small and large industrial undertakings, railway sidings, oil distribution centres, factories and indeed, in all places where fuel and lubricating oils are handled and inevitably spilled.

Wet weather has now accentuated this problem. During dry summer weather spilled oil seeps through the very dry absorbent ground to form a multitude of minute oil reservoirs, well below the surface of the ground. Under very heavy rain, the water soaks into the ground. Since water is heavier than oil it forces the oil to the surface not only creating a surface hazard but washing it into drains, public watercourses, streams and culverts.

To alleviate, and many cases prevent, the pollution of water supplies and drain water, a special oil skimmer is now available from Centralube Ltd, of Edmonton.

Although the company normally supplies lubricants, in this case the role is reversed. Oil is picked up from various places, where it is not meant to be, thus cleaning the water, and in many cases enabling the collected oil to be salvaged and recycled.

The oil skimmer, which is patented, consists basically of a special collector tube which floats on the surface of water in ponds, ditches, containment basins, etc, and picks up the oil, depositing it into a collection spout from which it is gravity fed to storage tanks. It can also operate for 24 hours a day and is constantly on guard collecting any oil as it appears, releasing manpower for more important maintenance work.

Tritium

Speaking in the House of Commons last week, Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, said that the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate had informed him that over the last year routine monitoring at Windscale had revealed detectable levels of tritium on the beach.

'Investigations by British Nuclear Fuels Ltd, in consultation with the Department of Environment and NII have not yet established the source of the tritium, but cannot rule out that it may have come from the silo which is the possible source of the recent seepage of radioactive water.

'I am advised that the tritium level on the beach is well below that permissible in drinking water and constitutes no hazard to employees or the general public. I will report to the House again when its source is established', said Mr Benn.

'Meanwhile, I have asked BNFL to ensure that the unions on the site, the local authority and members of the local liaison committee are informed.'

Application of research on abrasive machining

The Science Research Council is supporting a programme of research to advance the technology of abrasive machining. This is the result of an intensive survey which showed that this is a major metal-cutting process and is capable of being further developed.

The first phase of the programme is receiving support of £500,000 over a period of three years and is being carried out in six academic establishments; the bulk of the work is due to end in September 1977.

The advancing technology is only effective if transferred and exploited and to help in achieving this aim a conference is to be held at the Birmingham Metropole on 2 and 3 December.

During the first day of the conference the main features of the research programme will be presented in practical terms by speakers from the major research establishments. The second day will be devoted to a presentation of means to improve future co-operation between industrial and academic research establishments and will include papers on the second phase of the programme.

The conference will be of interest to engineers from firms involved in the manufacture and/or use of abrasive machines and associated products. Inquiries to: Peter Davies, Science Research Council, PO Box 18, Swindon, SN1 5BW (tel. 0793-26222).

Saving central heating

A new control system for saving heating fuel is being introduced by Satchwell Control Systems Ltd of Slough. It works by relating temperature changes to the programme of occupation of a building. The new system uses changes in temperature which are caused by the weather to vary the duration of the heat-up period of a building before occupation. In this way comfort conditions are reached only when required and not wastefully early, as is the normal situation with a straightforward timeswitch.

Because of its unique principle, which is the subject of a patent application, the Satchwell economy start system is simple to apply and provides a low cost installation. In commercial, industrial and public buildings, fuel savings will normally recover the installation costs in much less than one heating season.

Parliament

Monday, 13 December

Public ownership of industry

Dennis Canavan (West Stirlingshire) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what further plans he has to extend public ownership of industry.

Mr Varley said: 'The Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Bill was re-introduced at the beginning of this session and received its third reading on 7 December and is now before the other place. The remainder of the government's proposals on public ownership which fall within my department's responsibilities have been implemented in full.'

'Does the Secretary of State for Industry expect more, or less, people to be actively employed in the aircraft and shipbuilding industries 12 months after vesting day if the industries are nationalised?' asked Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington).

Said Mr Kaufman: 'The change to public ownership will not of itself alter the number of people employed in these industries. What it will do is afford the opportunity for coherent strategies to be developed for these industries which will give them hope and prospects not likely to be forthcoming while they remain in private ownership.'

Ministers at the Department of Industry

Secretary of State for Industry: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Alan Williams
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Robert Cryer
Leslie Huckfield

Ministers at the Department of Trade

Secretary of State for Trade: Edmund Dell
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Michael Meacher
Stanley Clinton Davis

Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: Roy Hattersley
Minister of State: John Fraser
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

Ship repair yards

Neville Trotter (Tynemouth) asked how much capital expenditure has been undertaken on modernising each of the following ship repair yards since they passed into public ownership in 1974: Brigham and Cowan Ltd, the Mercantile Dry Dock Co Ltd, and the Middle Docks and Engineering Co Ltd.

Mr Huckfield answered that major modernisation schemes at these yards have had to be postponed owing to the recession in the ship-repair market, but £458,000 has been spent on plant, machinery, etc, to maintain the efficiency of the yards.

Power plant manufacturing industries

Robert Woof (Blaydon) inquired about the contribution of the UK power plant manufacturing industries to the balance of payments during the last 10 years.

Mr Williams replied: 'The crude visible trade balances (exports fob less imports cif) for power plant products during the past decade are given in the following table. A full balance of payments assessment, including allowances for valuation differences and "invisibles", ie international transactions and earnings of the companies concerned other than on visible trade, is impracticable given limitations of information and resources.'

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF POWER PLANT (a) £ million

	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Exports (fob)	20	22	26	22	21	31	34	44	45	59
Imports (cif)	3	4	5	4	3	7	8	8	12	14
Crude trade balance (b)	16	18	22	18	18	24	26	36	33	45

Source: Overseas Trade Statistics.

(a) Power plant exports and imports include values of complete products and parts (the latter partly estimated) for the following three trade headings: Turbines other than marine; AC generators over 1,000KVA; and Water tube boilers other than marine.

(b) Balances do not in all cases agree with exports less imports owing to independent rounding.

Planning agreements

Ioan Evans (Aberdare) asked what consideration had been given to setting up a National Planning Commission to play a major role in the negotiation of planning agreements.

'As was set out in our white paper on "The Regeneration of British Industry", the planning agreement system is being operated through the existing departmental machinery,' said Mr Williams.

John Garrett (Norwich South) asked how many officials in the Department of Industry dealing with planning agreements have been recruited from industrial management and the trade unions.

'Two officials at senior level have been seconded from industry and we can call on the services of my department's Industrial Development Unit and industrial advisor on trade union matters,' said Mr Williams.

'There are, of course, in industrial sponsoring divisions in this and in other departments a number of people who have had industrial experience and they are also involved in planning agreement discussions.'

'How many planning agreements have been concluded with firms in the power generating industry since October 1974?' asked Philip Whitehead (Derby North).

Mr Williams replied: 'Four of the firms which were named in my announcement in April this year, as having agreed to move forward to operative discussions on planning agreements, are primarily concerned with the manufacture of power generating equipment. The difficulties faced by these companies, as a result of the mismatch between manufacturing capacity and demand for heavy electrical generating equipment, have been the subject of the recently completed study by the CPRS. The report will be published shortly and I hope that interested parties will, as soon as possible, make their views known to government so that they can be taken into account when decisions are made.' (See *Trade and Industry*, 17 December 1976, page 770.)

Scotland

Douglas Crawford (Perth and East Perthshire) asked: 'What are at present the responsibilities of the Department of Industry in Scotland.

'The list of ministerial responsibilities, a copy of which is in the library, shows the full responsibilities of the department,' said Mr Williams. 'All these are exercisable in Scotland except that the Scottish Office is responsible for regional selective financial assistance under section 7 of the Industry Act 1972 and, through the Scottish Development Agency, for the provision of industrial sites and factories.'

Industrial production

John Pardoe (North Cornwall) asked for the seasonally adjusted level of industrial production for the period most affected by the three-day week in 1974 and for the latest available period.

Mr Cryer answered that, based on 1970 = 100 the seasonally adjusted Index of Industrial Production stood at 102.3 in September 1976 compared with 102.5 in January

1974. Adjusting for the effects of stock changes output was slightly higher in September this year than in January 1974.

Industrial strategy

Michael Marshall (Arundel) asked: 'What progress has been made towards the implementation of the government's industrial strategy announced on 5 November 1975?'

'A progress report on the action taken in the light of the first reports by sector working parties was placed in the library of the House on 3 November,' said Mr Varley. 'The second round, in which sector working parties will continue their work in developing medium term strategies, is now under way. A further report will be made to the National Economic Development Council in February.'

Special steels industry

Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) asked if the capacity of the special steels industry is considered adequate for United Kingdom needs as the economy expands.

Mr Kaufman replied: 'One of the objectives of the government's industrial strategy is to encourage the existence of sufficient capacity to meet future demand. Special steels is one of the areas being looked into by the Nedo sector working party on iron and steel. The industry has in hand a continuing programme of investment and the Nedo studies have not so far indicated that capacity is likely to be a major constraint.'

Courtaulds

Mr Hoyle asked if the Secretary of State for Industry would set up a government inquiry into Courtaulds.

Mr Varley replied: 'My rt hon friend the Secretary of State for Employment and I are still in discussion with the company and the unions concerned about the recently announced closures at Courtaulds, including the possible basis for an inquiry. Meanwhile I understand that the company has invited the Courtaulds Trade Unions Co-ordinating Committee to meet them.'

Michael McGuire (Ince) asked when the Secretary of State for Industry expects to announce a decision on the holding of an inquiry into all aspects of the proposed closure of the Courtaulds factory in Skelmersdale.

'My rt hon friends the Secretaries of State for Employment and Industry are in discussion with the company and the unions concerned about this issue,' said Mr Williams. 'There are certain provisions relating to the setting up of inquiries under the Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Act 1921, and Part II of the Industrial Courts Act 1919. It is not clear that any of these are appropriate in the present situation.'

Regional aid

Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked for a list of the total amount of regional aid made available to Scotland and to Wales in each of the years 1950 to 1975.

'I regret that the cost of extracting the full information requested would be disproportionate,' said Mr Williams. 'Expenditure on Regional Preferential Expenditure in Scotland and Wales for the financial years 1970/71-1975/76 is estimated as follows:

£ million

	1970/71	1971/72	1972/73	1973/74	1974/75	1975/76
Scotland	98.1	87.2	85.2	108.6	146.3	228.0
Wales	50.7	44.7	53.6	65.7	81.5	104.0

'All figures are gross and include payments to nationalised industries. Major items included are the Regional Employment Premium, Regional Development Grants, Selective Financial Assistance (Section 7) under the Industry Act 1972, Local Employment Act Assistance and the Investment Grant Differential.'

EEC Regional Fund

Fred Silvester (Manchester, Withington) asked what proportion of applications for assistance from the EEC Regional Fund submitted by HM Government are for projects situated in the north west.

Mr Cryer answered: 'European Regional Development Fund contributions approved by the commission in respect of projects located in the North West Region amount to £7.2 million and account for about 11 per cent of the £66.2 million approved for United Kingdom projects to date. A further allocation to UK projects is expected to be announced shortly. The proportion related to projects located in the North West is unlikely to change significantly.'

Ferrous foundries industry scheme

Mrs Margaret Bain (East Dunbartonshire) asked: 'What has been the total amount of aid paid out under the aid to ferrous industries scheme up till the latest available date?'

'£1,033,000 at 1 December,' said Mr Cryer.

BAC 1-11

Geoffrey Pattie (Chertsey and Walton) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry is satisfied with the level of support other than financial given by his department towards future sales of the BAC 1-11.

'Yes,' said Mr Kaufman. 'My department is in close and constant contact with the British Aircraft Corporation, and has given considerable assistance to the company in its efforts to sell 1-11 aircraft.'

Return on capital

Peter Viggers (Gosport) asked for an estimate of the return on capital employed by British industrial companies.

Mr Williams said: 'About 4 per cent for UK industrial and commercial companies in 1975, measured at replacement costs and after deducting stock appreciation.'

Plastics industry

Gordon Wilson (Dundee East) asked for a statement about the development of the plastics industry.

Mr Cryer replied: 'The government's petrochemical strategy as outlined in my answer of 10 November to my hon friend the member for Leeds West stresses the importance we attach to downstream developments including high value intermediates such as plastic materials. My department is also playing an active role in the work of the tripartite NEDC Plastics Steering Committee which is concerned with the processing side of the industry. Recent initiatives where we have given positive assistance have been the establishment of the Polymer Products Development Centre at Shawbury and the sponsorship of a project to assist firms in the South Wales area from which I hope lessons for the whole UK plastics processing industry will emerge.'

National Enterprise Board

Mr J. W. Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr) asked for a statement about the use by the Secretary of State of Industry of the Industry Act 1975 during 1976.

Mr Kaufman replied: 'My rt hon friend has appointed an additional member to the National Enterprise Board; maintained a register of members' financial interests; transferred publicly owned property to the board; given his consent and general authority to acquisitions and borrowings where necessary; directed the board on the form of its interim accounts; and laid a copy of those accounts before parliament.'

Advance factories

George Rodgers (Chorley) asked how many government-sponsored advance factories are at present completed but not occupied.

'My department has 55 such factories in England, of which five have been allocated to prospective users,' said Mr Cryer.

Patscentre

Edwin Wainwright (Dearne Valley) asked if the Secretary of State for Industry would give assistance to the scientists, engineers, designers and production specialists at Patscentre, near Cambridge, a research establishment of P.A. Management Consultants, so that the products of their skills and ideas could be developed in the UK.

Mr Kaufman said: 'My rt hon friend is prepared to consider supporting research or product development work at Patscentre, if requested, on the same basis as that given for such work at industrial firms, research associations, and other research organisations.'

Calibration

Robin Corbett (Hemel Hempstead) asked what is being done to reduce the long delays in having load measuring devices calibrated by the National Physical Laboratory.

'Firstly, an industrial laboratory has recently been approved by the British Calibration Service to provide an additional calibrating service,' said Mr Kaufman. 'Secondly, new equipment is to be installed at the National Physical Laboratory which will increase productivity.'

Civil aircraft

John Osborn (Sheffield, Hallam) asked what representations had been received from steel, engineering and other suppliers to the aircraft industry, whether nationalised or not, about the need for replacements for the VC10, Trident and BAC 1-11 to be built in Great Britain or Europe with British manufactured components; and for a statement about the next generation of civil aircraft to be manufactured jointly with American or Euro-

pean interests or independently in the British aircraft industry.

Mr Huckfield said that no direct representations of the kind mentioned had been received. He continued: 'Because of the high costs and risks involved major new civil aircraft projects are likely to be undertaken on a collaborative basis and we intend to see that the UK industry obtains a profitable share of the substantial new business expected by the 1980s. I am satisfied that the UK airframe industry will take account of the interests of UK suppliers in determining the future projects in which to participate. But the airlines are not yet in a position to define their fleet requirements and in the meantime the UK industry under the auspices of the Organising Committee for British Aerospace are exploring all the various collaborative opportunities.'

Concorde

'What is the total cost to public funds to date of the Concorde project?' asked Philip Goodhart (Bromley, Beckenham).

'Up to 31 October 1976 the net cost to public funds of the Concorde project was £715 million,' said Mr Kaufman.

Small firms

Tom Litterick (Birmingham, Selly Oak) asked: 'Is the Secretary of State for Industry satisfied with the level of government assistance to small businesses?'

Mr Cryer answered: 'Eligibility for most forms of government assistance is unrelated to business size though some forms of assistance are specifically provided for small businesses. I am satisfied that the existing arrangements for assistance take full account of the needs of small businesses. Any change in those arrangements, which are kept under continuous review, will of course be notified to the House in the normal way, and such alterations have been made, for example, to the Machine Tool Scheme and the Clothing Scheme.'

Fisheries limits

Patrick Wall (Haltemprice) asked: 'What effect has the extension of foreign fisheries limits to 200 miles had on the price of fish in the shops?'

'The price of fish in the shops depends on many factors, the most important of which is the level of supplies,' said Mr Maclennan. 'In the context of the wider adoption of 200 mile limits, this will depend on the outcome of negotiations within the community and between the community and third countries; on access to fishing grounds and conservation measures. The availability of imports will also be an important factor affecting supplies and therefore prices.'

Dangerous toys

Gwilym Roberts (Cannock) asked what studies have been made of the selling and importation of dangerous toys.

Mr Maclennan replied: 'All toys offered for sale in Great Britain, whether imported or of domestic manufacture, must comply with the Toys (Safety) Regulations 1974, which cover the major hazards so far associated with toys. The regulations are kept constantly under review. My department is also involved in negotiations to draw up a comprehensive European standard for toys which will form the basis of an EEC directive on toy safety.

'In addition, all complaints to my department about dangerous toys are investigated and, when justified, taken up with the manufacturer or importer. In the last six months my department has received 35 such complaints and has found 16 of these to be justified. Most of the toys involved have now been modified or withdrawn from the market, following action by my department. The hazards identified were as follows:

Toxicity	2
Sharp metal, edges and points	3
Suffocation	7
Mechanical	2
Flammability	2

Potato prices

Mr Gwilym Roberts asked: 'What study has been made of the increase in potato prices; and will a maximum retail price for potatoes be introduced?'

Mr Maclennan replied: 'In the light of the poor potato crop this summer, my rt hon friend asked the Price Commission to continue the monitoring of potato prices and distributors' margins which they began in January. I have carefully considered the present and prospective supply position and continue to believe that fixing a maximum price for potatoes would not be in the consumers' best interests.'

Bread prices

Mrs Millie Miller (Redbridge, Ilford North) asked for a statement on the future of bread price control.

Mr Hattersley's answer was published in *Trade and Industry* of 17 December, page 774.

Soviet manufactured cars

Mr Wall asked: 'What is the number of Soviet manufactured cars that have been imported into the United Kingdom; what effect this has had on British Leyland; and how much British credit facilities to the USSR have been used for the export of British cars to the USSR?'

Mr Meacher said: 'During the first 10 months of this year UK imports of passenger motor cars from the Soviet Union numbered 6,748. This had little effect on the UK motor vehicle industry as a whole. The government is however keeping a close watch on shipments from the USSR and the other Eastern European suppliers.

'The Soviet market offers little potential for UK vehicle manufacturers and UK exports of passenger cars are negligible.'

Steel

John Ellis (Brigg and Scunthorpe) asked for the latest figures of the export and import of steel.

Mr Meacher said: 'In the 10 months ending October 1976, exports and imports of ingots, semi-finished and finished steel were 2.9 and 3.3 million metric tons respectively.'

Oil imports

Mr Sillars asked for figures showing the UK's oil import costs in each of the years 1971 to 1975 inclusive; and the estimated costs in the current year.

Mr Meacher answered: 'Figures for imports of oil on a balance of payments basis for the years 1971 to 1975 inclusive and for the first three quarters of 1976 can be obtained from the 3 December 1976 issue of *Trade and Industry* (table 4 on page 692). Figures for October 1976 can be obtained from *Trade and Industry* (table 12 on page 557) published on 19 November 1976.'

Imported manufactures

Figures were requested by Bryan Gould (Southampton, Test) to show the growth of imported manufactures relative to the growth of exported manufactures in each year from 1954 to 1975; and how this compares with the index of trade competitiveness in those years.

Mr Meacher gave the following figures:

	Ratio of growth of imported manufactures to growth of exported manufactures (1)	Competitiveness index (2) (1970 = 100)
1954	3½ : 1½	n.a.
1955	33 : 10	93.1
1956	1½ : 10	94.1
1957	3 : 5½	94.2
1958	−3½ : −2	96.7
1959	15 : 6	97.6
1960	35 : 6½	97.5
1961	½ : 5	97.5
1962	1½ : 2½	99.5
1963	9½ : 7	100.5
1964	27 : 5½	100.7
1965	4½ : 8½	102.7
1966	9½ : 7	105.0
1967	15 : 0	104.5
1968	33 : 23	98.2
1969	9½ : 16	97.9
1970	11 : 9	100.0
1971	9½ : 15	102.4
1972	22 : 5½	102.6
1973	46 : 27	93.9
1974	34 : 31	92.9
1975	7½ : 20	96.1

(1) The percentage change on the previous year of imports and exports of manufactured goods respectively on an overseas trade statistics basis.

(2) UK export prices of manufactured goods, in US dollars, as a percentage of the weighted average of our major competitors' export prices of manufactures, also expressed in dollars.

British Overseas Trade Board

Tony Durant (Reading North) asked what funds were voted by parliament to the British Overseas Trade Board in 1974, 1975, and 1976, respectively.

Mr Meacher answered that the amounts voted by parliament to the Department of Trade for direct expenditure by the British Overseas Trade Board on export promotion support for UK industry were:

1974-75	£11,160,300
1975-76	£13,347,000
1976-77	£16,453,000

The figures are net and include Supplementary Estimates.

Mr Durant also inquired about financial assistance made available by the BOTB's fairs and promotions branch to highly specialised firms which cannot belong to a group as a result of the specialised nature of their products.

Mr Meacher said: 'The British Overseas Trade Board's schemes of support for the promotion of exports generally require the sponsorship of a trade association or other recognised body and these sponsors are required to accept participation from members and non-members alike. In circumstances where there is no appropriate sponsor and where the board is satisfied that a particular promotion is desirable, the board is usually able to arrange sponsorship. All participants in the board's overseas promotions are eligible for the same assistance which varies according to the scheme in question and the location of the market.'

Entertainment industries

Mr Durant asked how much foreign currency is earned by the hotel, film, theatre and opera industries, and what proportion of this foreign currency is earned by the film industry alone.

Mr Meacher said: 'The information available covers receipts from overseas of the film industry in respect of the production of films in the UK and the performance of films in cinemas and on television overseas. The latest figures, in respect of 1975, were published in an article on pages 534-536 of *Trade and Industry*, 20 August 1976, a copy of which is in the library. Separate information is not available on the foreign currency earnings of UK hotels, cinemas, theatre and opera.'

Oil pollution regulations

Graham Page (Crosby) asked if it is proposed to replace the Oil Pollution (Compulsory Insurance) (Amendment No. 4) Regulations 1976 by further amending regulations more lucidly embodying the intentions expressed by departmental officials in evidence before the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments (HC 54 xlvi) on 26 October 1976.

Mr Clinton Davis replied: 'I propose to replace the Oil Pollution (Compulsory Insurance) Regulations 1975 and all the amending instruments, including the Oil Pollution (Compulsory Insurance) (Amendment No. 4) Regulations 1976, by new regulations which will consolidate the existing regulations with amendments. I intend these new regulations to come into operation on 24 February 1977. This operational date will allow account to be taken of the accession of Portugal to the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage 1969 which becomes effective on that date.'

Submersibles

Mr Page asked if the Secretary of State for Trade intends to make regulations under the Merchant Shipping Act 1974 to remedy the situation which the Select Committee on Statutory Instruments in their 25th Report of last Session (HC 54 xxxv) described as an unusual use of the powers given under the act, namely, the lack of requirement for notification to the owner of a manned mobile submersible craft when the registration thereof is cancelled by the Secretary of State.

Mr Clinton Davis answered: 'I do not consider this necessary. The provisions of regulation 3(8) in the Merchant Shipping (Registration of Submersible Craft) Regulations, 1976, to which the joint committee drew attention are primarily for the purpose of keeping the register of submersible craft up to date and precedents are provided by similar regulations in other fields.

'In practice, an owner would be notified of a proposed cancellation of registration.'

Radioactivity leak at Windscale

Tom King asked for a statement on any report of the Nuclear Installation Inspectorate on the leak of radioactive waste at Windscale.

Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, said: 'As I informed the House on Thursday, 9 December, in reply to my hon. friend the Member for Coatbridge and Airdrie, British Nuclear Fuels Ltd with the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate are continuing their investigations into the source of this seepage and I will report again to the House as soon as I have further advice from the inspectorate.

'On 10 October 1976, a routine survey of the completed excavations for a new silo revealed significant radiation levels in one corner of the excavation. The source of the radioactive contamination was not identified and a more detailed survey was carried out on 17 October 1976. The inspectorate discussed the situation on site with British Nuclear Fuels Ltd, and have continued to monitor the progress of the investigations. These have involved further excavations and the drilling of boreholes. The results of the investigations to date, first reported to me on 8 December, suggest that the contamination arises from a seepage of water some 15 ft below the ground through the concrete wall of an old silo in which is stored high activity waste.

'I have been advised that there has been no radiation exposure of any workers above permitted limits, and that there is no contamination outside the Windscale site.

'I have given instructions that in future I shall be immediately informed when incidents, however apparently insignificant, occur on nuclear installations for which I am answerable to the House.'

Offshore safety

Mr Page asked what further regulations are proposed in order to meet the complaints of the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments in their 28th Report of last Session (HC 54 xxxix) that the form and the purport of the Offshore Installations (Operational Safety, Health and Welfare) Regulations 1976 and the Submarine Pipe-Lines (Diving Operations) Regulations 1976 were not clear and required elucidation.

Dr Dickson Mabon, Minister of State, Department of Energy, said: 'I have carefully considered the report. The Offshore Installations (Operational Safety, Health and Welfare) Regulations 1976 are being reviewed to determine whether action is required to remove any doubts about who in any given circumstances is meant by "the responsible person".

'The committee also questioned why it was a criminal offence to fail to issue certain instructions but not an offence to fail to obey them. I believe the regulations properly lay the onus on management. The parent act, the Mineral Workings (Offshore Installations) Act 1971, gives no power to delegate to management the making of rules backed by criminal sanctions. To produce criminal consequences the duties would have to be set out in the regulations themselves, not in managerial instructions, but this would not be practicable for domestic day-to-day arrangements subject to frequent change. There are, however, two kinds of existing sanction for disobedience to instructions, namely normal discipline, in an extreme case dismissal, and, under section 5(3) of the 1971 act, for disobedience to the installation manager's lawful commands, a fine on summary conviction not exceeding £50.

'The joint committee made a similar point in relation to the Submarine Pipelines (Diving Operations) Regulations 1976 to which similar considerations apply. They also suggested that it would be desirable for a single set of diving regulations to be prepared to replace the present three sets covering diving from ships, from installations and in connection with pipeline works respectively. The three sets of regulations, apart from differences made necessary by the nature of the case, the different acts and the persons on whom the duties are laid by those acts, were in fact harmonised as far as possible.

'However, following the Prime Minister's announcement on 30 July of the government's decision to extend the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 offshore, an Inter-Departmental Working Party under the chairmanship of the Health and Safety Executive has completed a study with a view to producing unified Health and Safety Regulations. It will be for the Health and Safety Commission to consider what further action to take in this matter.'

Tuesday, 14 December

BIM report on Managing Manufacturing Operations

Mrs Winifred Ewing (Moray and Nairn) asked for a statement on the survey of the British Institute of Management regarding 1975 delivery records of 186 plants.

Mr Huckfield said: 'The British Institute of Management report on Managing Manufacturing Operations recognises that there are good delivery performances as well as bad. But I am sure that all manufacturing companies can usefully study the survey findings on delivery and other areas where manufacturing performance can be improved and consider the implications for their own operations. Improvements in industry's management of manufacturing are essential if the industrial strategy is to succeed. I am encouraged to see the BIM focusing attention on what needs to be done in this key area.'

Power plant manufacturing industries

Mr Woof inquired about the current order prospects for the UK's power plant manufacturing industries; and asked what is the UK's share of world trade in electrical equipment.

Mr Williams replied: 'I regret that information relating exclusively to the power plant manufacturing industries cannot be made available without giving or inferring confidential data of individual companies. Order books are low for the whole electrical machinery industry*, which includes power generating plant. Some improvement in export and total orders has taken place in recent months, however, while orders-on-hand for the home market have remained depressed.

'In 1975 the United Kingdom's share of exports of electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances† by the main manufacturing countries of the world was 8.8 per cent.'

* Minimum List Heading 361 of the Standard Industrial Classification.

† Division 72 of the Standard International Trade Classification.

Car exports

Peter Hordern (Horsham and Crawley) asked for information on the level of passenger car exports as a proportion of world trade in passenger cars each year since 1965.

Mr Meacher gave the following available information:

UNITED KINGDOM PERCENTAGE SHARE OF THE MAJOR PRODUCING COUNTRIES' EXPORTS OF PASSENGER CARS

1965	19.6
1966	15.8
1967	13.3
1968	13.4
1969	13.4
1970	10.9
1971	9.8
1972	8.2
1973	7.6
1974	7.3
1975	7.1

Source:
The Motor Industry of Great Britain published by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders Ltd.
World trade in passenger cars is not available. The figures are based on exports by the major producing countries: United Kingdom, United States, Japan, Canada, France, German Federal Republic, Italy and Sweden.

Small businesses

Mr Sillars asked for details of the various new schemes of assistance introduced by the present administration in respect of the small-business sector.

Mr Cryer said: 'As announced earlier this year, the government has established a pilot counselling service for small firms in the South West Region, is making funds available to assist with studies of the feasibility of collaboration between small firms and is carrying out a review of their management education needs. This is in addition to the Small Firms Information Service which has been available for a number of years.

'Details of schemes of assistance for individual industrial sectors introduced by the government under section 8 of the Industry Act have been placed in the library of the House. In particular, most of these include provision for helping small firms with the costs of consultancy assignments.

'In addition my rt hon friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer has taken a number of steps to help the business community and has raised the ceiling for the reduced rate of Corporation Tax and changed the application of Capital Transfer Tax with the needs of small businesses especially in mind.'

Noises in the West Country

Janet Fookes (Plymouth, Drake) asked for an explanation of the unidentified sounds occurring in the West Country, popularly attributed to flights by Concorde.

Mr Clinton Davis said: 'On the information at present available it does appear that many of the sounds being reported occur at the same time as Concorde flights are taking place up either the Bristol Channel or the English Channel. However, as many of the sounds are untypical of normal Concorde sonic booms, we are studying the various reports to try and ascertain the reason for this. I shall make a statement as soon as we have come to any definite conclusions.'

Hong Kong Mass Transit Scheme

Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) wanted to know which contracts or loans for the Hong Kong Mass Transit scheme are covered by export credit guarantees.

'ECGD has guaranteed a line of credit amounting to £120 million to the Hong Kong Mass Transit Railway Corporation,' said Mr Meacher. 'Contracts so far awarded under this facility have a UK export content of some £97 million.'

Consumer Advice Centres

Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley) asked about current policy towards making grants for the establishment and running of consumer advice centres.

Mr Maclennan said: 'In making grants available for the establishment and running costs of new consumer advice centres in Great Britain, my department has adhered to the guidelines described in its circular to local authorities no. 9/75 of 1 September 1975. I am sending the hon member a copy. In considering applications for grants my rt hon friend has been particularly concerned to extend the national coverage of these centres.

'The new grant for 1977/78 which my rt hon friend announced on 22 November 1976, in reply to a question from my hon friend the member for Bedwellty, will contribute to the costs of consumer advice centres, in order to maintain the national coverage achieved by 31 March 1977. Discussions on the details of the new grant will shortly take place between my department and local authority associations.'

Wednesday, 15 December

National Enterprise Board

Mr Grylls asked what further loan facilities the National Enterprise Board is to provide for Cambridge Instruments Ltd; what interest the loan will bear; and when it will be due for repayment.

Mr Huckfield said: 'The NEB announced on 8 December that it would advance £0.5 million to the company in the form of an unsecured subordinated five-year loan, and that for two years it would make available a stand-by facility of a further £1.5 million. Interest rates are a matter for the NEB to determine within its guidelines.'

Mr Grylls asked: 'Is the NEB going to subscribe in further equity in Cambridge Instruments Ltd, in addition to its 4,261,757 10p ordinary shares; and, if so, what will be the total cost of these new shares?'

'Yes,' said Mr Huckfield. 'The NEB announced on 8 December that they had agreed to subscribe for 50 million new voting shares at a total cost of £0.5 million, and 50 million new restricted voting shares, also at a total cost of £0.5 million.

'What was the total amount of taxpayers' money committed to British Leyland through the National Enterprise Board up to 10 December 1976?' asked Mr Grylls.

Mr Huckfield said: 'Agreement has been reached for the payment to British Leyland through the National Enterprise Board of up to £100 million of loan capital, this being the first stage of loan finance envisaged in the Ryder Report. No payment had been made at 10 December 1976'.

'What is the current Stock Exchange value of the National Enterprise shareholding in British Leyland?' asked Mr Grylls.

'The National Enterprise Board holds 246,490,683 Ordinary shares in British Leyland Ltd,' said Mr Huckfield. 'The Stock Exchange closing price on 13 December was 23p per share. Ninety-five per cent of the equity in British Leyland is not available for trading.'

Mr Graham Day

Mr Grylls asked about the remuneration paid in total to Mr J. Graham Day, chief executive designate of British Shipbuilders, up to 9 December 1976.

Mr Huckfield said: 'Up to 9 December 1976 £17,719 has been paid in respect of salary to Mr Day as deputy chairman of the Organising Committee and deputy chairman and chief executive designate of British Shipbuilders.'

Housing steel workers

John Ellis (Brigg and Scunthorpe) asked: 'What arrangements have been made in respect of loans for housing steel workers that may be available under arrangements arrived at with the European Coal and Steel Community?'

Mr Huckfield replied: 'Housing schemes to take advantage of these loans have been worked out by the steel industry in consultation with the unions and are now being discussed with the European commission. Full details will be published as soon as agreement has been concluded.'

Small businesses in Liverpool

Eric S. Heffer (Liverpool, Walton) asked what plans the Secretary of State for Industry has for the development of nursery units to develop small-businesses in Liverpool; whether he has discussed the subject with the local authority; and whether he is satisfied with the situation.

Mr Cryer replied: 'My hon friend the member for Swansea West announced in November 1975 that the Department of Industry was to build a six-unit factory at Sandon Dock intended for expanding small businesses. These units should be ready for occupation by June 1977. My officials have worked in close co-operation with Merseyside County Council and Liverpool City Council on this development. I am fully aware of the needs of small businesses in Liverpool and the possibility of further such developments have been discussed with Merseyside Council.'

Bullock Committee on Industrial Democracy

Ian Wrigglesworth (Teesside, Thornaby) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade has yet received the report of the Bullock Committee on Industrial Democracy.

'I have now received the report, and I am arranging for it to be published as soon as possible in the new year,' said Mr Dell.

Food subsidies

John Ovenden (Gravesend) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection what would be the rates of food subsidies when the reduction of the bread subsidy which he announced on 13 December comes into effect.

Mr Hattersley's reply is published in the Home news section.

European community news

Agreement on interim fishing regime possible – Owen

Speaking about the discussion on fisheries after the close of the foreign minister's council in Brussels on 13 December, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office David Owen said that there appeared to be a greater hint of flexibility in the commission's position and some recognition of Britain's special position on the issue.

He said that he could see the possibility of getting agreement on an interim fishing regime to cover the period between the extension of fishing limits by member states on 1 January and the long-term revision of the common fisheries policy.

He said that he had spoken very strongly in the council to the effect that the commission's 2 December proposals for an interim regime were quite unacceptable and did not take account of Britain's special position on coastal belts and coastal regions. Rather than accept the commission's proposals, Britain would have preferred to extend her own conservation measures from 1 January.

The commission, he said, had known about the British position on coastal belts since May and there had been no give until now. But there now seemed to be recognition that the proposals were unfair, that they did not take account of the fact that Britain would be providing between 55 and 60 per cent of the resources in the EEC 'fish pool' and that Britain would lose large amounts of fishing off the coasts of third countries which were establishing 200-mile zones. He said that Britain was arguing on the sheer need for conservation of fish stock and on the belief that this could not be entirely operated in quotas. There were still major problems to sort out, Dr Owen said, but there was still some recognition of the British position on coastal belts which remained the same as stated by Mr Hattersley in May. 'We are still pressing for coastal belts that recognise the special needs of UK fishermen.'

Ministers agreed that the commission should prepare new proposals which will be discussed at another foreign council this week.

Dr Owen said that the council's earlier agreement on a common EEC position for fishing arrangements with third countries had been of crucial importance.

By restricting the fishing of third countries in EEC waters it would increase the amounts that could be taken by fishermen of the community while still keeping within conservation requirements.

Earlier EEC foreign ministers agreed on the arrangements that should operate for Russian fishing in the 200-mile zones of member states which come into effect on 1 January. And ministers agreed, in connection with third countries that the 'Russian formula' would apply to all countries where there was some element of reciprocal fishing such as Sweden, Poland, GDR and Finland.

Lead in the blood directive adopted

A directive on biological screening for lead in blood was adopted by EEC environment ministers at their meeting in Brussels on 9 December. Denis Howell, Minister for Recreation and Water Resources, represented the UK.

The directive forms part of the community's programme of action on the environment of 22 November 1973. It provides for the organisation on a common basis of the assessment of current exposure to lead of the population of the nine member states, measured from the lead content of the blood.

It also provides for two compaigns to measure the lead content in the blood of the population of the community, to be carried out over a period of four years with samples of at least 50 analyses per million inhabitants in each campaign. The results will be evaluated from three blood lead reference levels (20, 30 and 35 microgrammes of lead per 100ml of blood) fixed on the basis of an objective assessment of the dangers involved.

Member states are to inform the commission regularly of the results of analyses and any measures they may take or plan should these reference levels be exceeded. The commission will submit suitable proposals on the basis of the results of the programme.

Protection against pollution

Ministers adopted a decision concluding the Bonn convention, signed on 3 December 1976, on the protection of the Rhine against chemical pollution. The council also adopted the decision concluding an agreement enabling the community, represented by the commission, to take part in the international commission for the protection of the Rhine against pollution.

The adoption of the directive on dangerous substances on 8 December 1975 has enabled real progress to be made in negotiations between the states through which the Rhine passes, including the Swiss Confederation, under the auspices of the international commission. This was the basis which enabled those states to negotiate the agreement which led to the conclusion of the convention for the protection of the Rhine against chemical pollution.

The council said it hoped to see the provisions of the convention implemented in the very near future.

At this meeting, the council did not act on the proposal concluding the Barcelona convention on the protection of the Mediterranean against pollution, since the internal procedures of one member state have not yet been completed. With this reservation, the council did however foresee that the convention would be concluded in the very near future, as the other member states had agreed to the proposal.

The participation of the community in the Barcelona convention, the signatories of which include Cyprus, Egypt, Spain, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey and Yugoslavia, is part of the community's endeavour to find an international solution to the problem of the pollution of the Mediterranean.

Water for human consumption

Environment ministers also held an exchange of views on the directive relating to the quality of water for human consumption.

This proposal forms part of the objectives of the 22 November 1973 programme of action on the environment and lays down standards for the quality of water intended for human consumption. It applies to water supplied for human consumption directly and to water used for various purposes in food production, such as the manufacture, processing and preservation of products or substances intended for human consumption and which affect the wholesomeness of the foodstuff in its finished form.

The purpose of the proposal is to check the organoleptic, physico-chemical, undesirable, toxic and microbiological factors by imposing compliance with more than 60 parameters used for defining the quality of water for human consumption. In addition to the values, either mandatory (maximum admissible concentration) or indicative (guide level), there are minimum required concentrations to be complied with for certain components of water intended for human consumption (calcium, magnesium, hardness).

Ministers' discussions revealed that certain technical aspects had not yet been clarified sufficiently to enable the council to take a decision at that meeting. It agreed to instruct the permanent representatives committee to carry out a thorough examination of the remaining problems outstanding at that stage with a view to preparing the

ground for a decision on the matter at a meeting early in the first half of 1977.

1977-81 action programme

Ministers signified their agreement to the second action programme of the European community on the environment for the years 1977 to 1981.

This programme is a continuation of the first programme of 22 November 1973 and is designed to ensure the continuity of the projects already undertaken by the community in order to promote the qualitative development of their economies and to preserve the natural environment.

The work relating to the conservation of the environment will mainly involve the drawing up of a proposal for a directive on the protection of underground water and the implementation of the directive of 4 May 1976 on pollution caused by certain substances discharged into the aquatic environment, such as cadmium and mercury.

The new topics covered by this programme include the assessment of the effects on the environment, the development of a mapping system indicating the various regions of the community according to their characteristics, measures against atmospheric pollution, measures against noise, measures to combat discharge and waste and environment problems of interest to the developing countries.

Pulp mills

Ministers held a detailed discussion on the basis of commission suggestions and amendments by the delegations relating to the directive on the reduction of water pollution caused by pulp mills.

Concluding that discussion, ministers stressed their political will to adopt this directive at their next meeting on the environment, and instructed the permanent representatives committee to examine this matter in detail, so that this decision might be prepared in good time.

Titanium dioxide industry

The council examined in detail the file on waste from the titanium dioxide industry on the basis of a commission proposal and the delegations' various suggestions for amendments. But ministers noted that the proposal for a directive did not yet meet with the required consensus.

Acknowledging the ecological and economic importance of this proposal, the council emphasised its political will to adopt this directive at its next meeting on the environment, and accordingly instructed the permanent representatives committee to resume its examination of this dossier in good time.

EEC-Iran talks open

Negotiations for a commercial and economic co-operation agreement between the community and Iran opened on 20 December.

The community delegation was led by acting EEC external affairs commissioner Finn Olav Gundelach and the Iranian delegation, by Mr H. Ansary, Minister for Economic and Financial Affairs.

Mergers or transfers: ministers adopt directive on acquired rights

Employees rights in the case of transfers or undertakings or mergers of businesses or parts of businesses were the subject of a directive adopted by EEC ministers for social affairs on 9 December.

The text of the directive, which has yet to be considered by the community's jurists/linguists group, is published below.

Scope (article 1)

1 This Directive shall apply to the transfer of undertakings, businesses or parts of businesses to another employer as a result of a legal transfer or merger.

2 This Directive shall apply where and insofar as the undertaking, business or part of the business to be transferred is situated within the territorial scope of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community.

3 This Directive shall not apply to transfers of sea-going vessels.

Definitions (article 2)

1 For the purposes of this Directive, transferor means any natural or legal person who, by reason of a transfer within the meaning of Article 1(1), loses his position as employer in respect of the undertaking, business or part of the business.

2 For the purposes of this Directive, transferee means any natural or legal person who, by reason of a transfer within the meaning of Article 1, assumes the position of employer in respect of the undertaking, business or part of the business.

3 For the purposes of this Directive, 'employees' representatives' means the employees' representatives who are provided for by the laws or practice of the Member States, with the exception of members of administrative, managerial, supervisory, or governing bodies of companies, representing employees on such bodies in certain Member States.

Transfer of rights and obligations

1 Transfer of rights and obligations resulting from an employment relationship

The transferor's rights and obligations arising from a contract of employment or an employment relationship existing on the date of the transfer within the meaning of Article 1(1) shall, as a result of such transfer, be transferred to the transferee.

Member States may provide that, after the date of transfer within the meaning of Article 1(1) and in addition to the transferee, the transferor shall continue to be liable for rights arising from a contract of employment or an employment relationship.

2 Retention of working conditions agreed in a collective agreement

Following the transfer within the meaning of Article 1(1), the transferee shall retain the working conditions agreed in a collective agreement on the same terms as those laid down for the transferor by that agreement, until the date of termination or expiry of the collective agreement or the entry into force or application of another collective agreement.

The Member States may limit the period for retaining the working conditions provided the period is not less than one year.

3 Exceptions as regards rights to supplementary benefits under pension schemes

Paragraphs 1 and 2 above shall not cover employees' rights to supplementary old-age, invalidity or survivors' benefits deriving from company or inter-company pension schemes above and beyond the statutory social security schemes in Member States.

The Member States shall adopt the measures necessary to protect the interests of employees and of persons no longer employed at the transferor's business at the time of the transfer within the meaning of Article 1(1) in respect of rights conferring on them immediate or prospective entitlement to supplementary old-age benefits, including survivors' benefits, from company or inter-company pension schemes above and beyond the statutory social security schemes in Member States.

Termination of the employment relationship

The transfer of undertakings, businesses or parts of businesses shall not in itself constitute grounds for dismissal for the transferor or the transferee. This provision shall not stand in the way of such dismissals as may take place for economic, technical or organisational reasons entailing changes in the employment situation.

Member States may provide that the first subparagraph shall not apply to certain specific categories of employees who are not covered by the legislation of or practice in the Member States in respect of protection from dismissal.

If the contract of employment or the employment relationship is terminated because the transfer within the meaning of Article 1(1) involves a substantial change in working conditions to the detriment of the employee, the employer shall be regarded as having been responsible for termination of the contract of employment or of the employment relationship.

Position of the employees' representatives

If the business preserves its autonomy, the status and the function, as laid down by the laws of the Member States, of the representatives or of the representation of the employees affected by the transfer shall continue to obtain.

The paragraph above shall not apply if, under the laws, regulations or administrative provisions of the Member States, the conditions necessary for the appointment afresh of representatives or the constitution afresh of the representation of the employees are fulfilled.

If the term of office of the representatives of the employees affected by the transfer expires as a result of the transfer, they shall continue to enjoy the protection provided by the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of or practice in the Member States.

Information and consultation

1 Informing employees representatives

The transferor and transferee shall be required to inform the representatives of their respective employees affected by a transfer within the meaning of Article 1(1) of the following:

1.1 the reasons for the transfer;

1.2 the legal, economic and social implications of the transfer for the employees;

1.3 measures envisaged in relation to the employees.

The transferor must give such information to the representatives of his employees in good time before the transfer is carried out.

The transferee must give such information to the representatives of his employees in good time and in any event before such transfer directly affects the conditions of work and employment of his employees.

2 Procedure for consulting employees representatives

If the transferor or the transferee envisages measures in relation to his respective employees, he shall consult his respective employees' representatives in good time with a view to seeking an agreement.

Member States may limit the obligations laid down in paragraphs 1 and 2 to undertakings, businesses or parts of business which, in respect of the number of employees, fulfil the conditions for the election or designation of a collegiate body representing the employees.

Member States whose legislation provides that employees' representatives may have recourse to an arbitration board to obtain a decision on the measures to be taken with regard to employees may limit the obligation to inform and consult to cases where the transfer causes a change in the business likely to entail serious disadvantages for a considerable number of the employees.

Such information and consultation shall cover at least the measures envisaged in relation to the employees.

Such information and consultation shall take place in good time before the change in the business referred to in the first paragraph is carried out.

The Member States may provide that the employees of an undertaking or business who have no representatives within the meaning of Article 2(2) must be informed in advance when a transfer is about to take place.

More favourable provision for employees

This Directive shall not affect the right of Member States to apply or introduce laws, regulations or administrative provisions which are more favourable to employees.

Implementation of the Directive

Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions needed to comply with this Directive within 24 months of its notification and shall forthwith inform the Commission thereof.

Member States shall communicate to the Commission the texts of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions which they adopt in the field covered by this Directive.

Commission report

Within two years following expiry of the 24-month period laid down in the previous two paragraphs, Member States shall forward all relevant information to the Commission to enable it to draw up a report for submission to the Council on the application of this Directive.

UK allocated further £28.8m from regional development fund

Contributions of £28.8 million towards the cost of 297 projects in the UK are to be made from the EEC regional development fund. This, the fourth allocation from the fund towards the UK's 1976 share of £57.8 million, was announced by the European commission on 16 December.

The £28.8 million relates to 16 industrial projects, 103 government advance factory projects and 178 infrastructure projects and is allocated as follows:

£000

	Industrial and government advance factory projects	Infrastructure projects	Total
Northern region	8,786	2,826	11,612
North-west	1,749	953	2,702
Yorkshire and Humberside	385	413	798
East Midlands	28	177	205
West Midlands	—	3	3
South-west	43	530	573
Total England	10,991	4,902	15,893
Northern Ireland	—	2,255	2,255
Scotland	3,178	5,274	8,452
Wales	1,781	414	2,195
Total UK	15,950	12,845	28,795

This brings the total fund contributions for UK projects approved this year to £59.1 million, slightly more than the UK's 1976 share, made possible because other member states have not been granted their full shares.

The new allocation brings the total fund contributions approved for UK projects since the inception of the fund to £95 million. This has been distributed as follows:

	Fund contributions £000
England	
Northern	26,037
North-west	9,879
Yorks and Humberside	3,090
East Midlands	503
West Midlands	14
South-west	1,520
Total England	41,043
Northern Ireland	14,973
Scotland	24,459
Wales	14,563
Total	95,038

The commission's latest allocation includes contributions totalling £11 million towards the cost of national aids to industrial and service industry projects and government advance factory projects in England (see above).

The money from the industrial projects will not be passed on to the individual businesses concerned but will be retained by the government and used to go ahead with a greater total of regional investment than would otherwise have been possible.

Industrial projects

Northern region
Projects – four Fund contribution – £7,880,225

Location	Company	Activity
Distington, Cumbria	British Steel Corporation	Steel production
Hartlepool, Cleveland	Polypac (Hartlepool) Ltd	Pneumatic seals
Redcar, Cleveland	British Steel Corporation	Steel production
Thornaby, Teesside	Armstrong Cork Co Ltd	Resilient floor coverings

North-west region
Projects – three Fund contribution – £978,651

Location	Company	Activity
Bolton, Lancs	Electric Power Storage Ltd	Battery manufacture
Widnes, Cheshire	Fisons Ltd	Herbicides
Skelmersdale, Lancs	Nacanco Ltd	Aluminium cans

Yorkshire and Humberside region
Project – one Fund contribution – £385,000

Location	Company	Activity
Scarborough, Yorkshire	Bunzle Adhesive Materials Ltd	Adhesive laminates

South-west region
Projects – two Fund contribution – £42,500

Location	Company	Activity
Ilfracombe, Devon	Ilfracombe Holiday Village	Tourism
Woolacombe, Devon	Golden Coast Holiday Village	Tourism

Advance factories – December 1976

Northern region
Projects – 33 Fund contribution – £905,654

Location	Factories
Ashington, Northumberland	1
Blyth	3
Cleator Moor, Cumbria	2
Consett, Durham	1
Cramlington, Northumberland	1
Gateshead	4
Hartlepool	5
Hebburn, Tyne and Wear	3
Houghton-Le-Spring, Durham	1
Jarrow	1
Longbenton, Tyne and Wear	2
Stanley, Durham	3
Sunderland	4
Teesside	2

North-west region
Projects – 23 Fund contribution – £770,770

Location	Factories
Altham, Lancs	3
Barrow	2
Blackpool	1
Bromborough, Merseyside	2
Irlam	1
Knowsley, Merseyside	2
Lancaster	1
Liverpool	9
Rawtenstall, Lancs	1
Wigan	1

East Midlands region
Project – 1 Fund contribution – £28,452

Location	Factories
Worksop	1

Other projects in England, Scotland, Wales and N. Ireland

In addition to the £11 million assigned to industrial and service industry projects and government advance factory projects in England, the balance of the UK's latest allocation from the regional development fund will go towards infrastructure projects in England, and industrial and infrastructure projects in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Northern England

Infrastructure projects

Location	Project
Eden/South Lakeland, Cumbria – North West Water Authority	Shap aqueduct water supply scheme compromising: 1 A new pumphouse, designed to harmonise with surroundings and soundproofed, built in traditional materials, erected in a wooded area below Haweswater Dam; 2 A pipeline, tunnel and further gravity pipeline approximately 22km in length to the existing treatment works at Watchgate, near Kendal; 3 A microstraining plant at Watchgate treatment works – £644,000

Aid is given under a global application to the following projects:

Allerdale – Workington Harbour	Improve harbour entrance and deepening shipping channel
Blyth – Blyth Harbour	Five large capacity cranes
Blyth Harbour, Blyth Valley	Construct transit shed warehouses
Blyth	New plant to provide electricity supplies
Blyth Valley, Kitty Brewster Industrial Estate	Roads and services
Carlisle, Kingston and Rosehill Industrial Estate	Provision of roads and services
Darlington, Yarm Road Industrial Estate	Access road with footpaths and street lighting, and construction of an electricity sub-station
Darlington, Allan Street and Nestfield Street	Road works involving some realignment of the roads
Darlington, Albert Road Bridge	Reconstruction of the dock to full highway standards and improve footpath
Derwentside, High Moorsely Reservoir and mains, Belmont Industrial Site	Increase water supplies – inlet mains from East Ranidon to reservoir; outlet mains to Carrville, Belmont and Dragonville

Location	Project
Derwentside, Bradley Industrial Estate	Road construction and associated services to improve access to industrial buildings on estate
Durham, Belmont Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	Extension of existing sewage treatment works; pipes and pumping stations
Easington, A1086/B1283 Horden Junction	Construction of a 10m-wide carriageway including crawler lane for slow moving heavy vehicles
Easington, B1283/B1432 Rosemary Lane and Hospital Lane	Widening and realignment of existing carriageways; improve junctions and provision of footpaths
Easington, B1283 Harwell Plough to Pemberton Arms	Realignment and improvement of the existing carriageway
Easington, B1283 Tuthill Railway Bridge	Reconstruction and widening of the bridge
Gateshead, Birtley New Town Industrial Estate	Site preparation, provision of access services
Gateshead, Norwood Coke Works Industrial Estate	Site preparation, roads and services
Great Lumley, Durham	Electricity supplies to new pumping station and treatment plant
Hexham, Tynedale – Orchard Industrial Estate	Roads, drainage and other services
Middlesbrough, Conduit 67 Stage II supply	Increase water supplies by provision of 10km of 1,016mm piping
Middlesbrough	Improve road between port and industrial areas on the north bank of the river Tees with the A19 and A1130 Tees river bridges
Middlesbrough, Cannon Park Industrial Estate	Resurfacing of site, provision of road, surface water sewers, and foul water sewers
Middlesbrough, North East Ironmasters Industrial Estate	Development of industrial estate
Newcastle, Cramlington New Town – Road B	Construction of primary distributor road to dual carriageway standards (1.6km length)
North Shields, Albert Edward Dock	Provision of quay, paved areas and floodlighting; extension of link-span bridge; improve approach road
North Tyneside, Middle Engine Lane Industrial Estate	Site preparation, access, services, etc
North Tyneside, Algernon Colliery Industrial Estate	Site preparation, access, services, etc
Sedgefield, Tudhoe Colliery Service Industrial Estate	Provision of access road, main services, fencing and landscaping
Sedgefield, Chilton Industrial Estate	Construction of a spur road, foul and surface water drainage and water supply
Sedgefield, Furnace Pit Service Industry Industrial Estate	Extension of access road, sewers and other services
Sedgefield, Groat Avenue/Howden Road Link, Aycliffe Industrial Estate	On-site road
Sunderland, Armstrong Industrial Estate	Roads, sewers, power supplies
Sunderland, Crowther Industrial Estate	Roads, sewers, power supplies
Sunderland, Doxford Park Industrial Estate	Roads, sewers and services
Sunderland, Pallion West Industrial Estate	Site preparation, access, services
Sunderland, Pattinson South Industrial Estate	Reclamation of land
Sunderland, Pattinson North Industrial Estate	Roads and sewers
Sunderland, Pattinson North Industrial Estate	Access road construction – stage 2
Wansbeck, Barrington Industrial Estate	Roads and lighting
Washington New Town	Telephone exchange building extension, exchange equipment and new telecommunications lineplant
Wear Valley, Durham, Leazes Lane Industrial Estate	Provision of roads and sewers
Wetherall and Workington	Construct offtake station, rationalisation of pipelines, provision of storage

TOTAL AID IN RESPECT OF 43 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS (GLOBAL APPLICATION) – £2,181,755
TOTAL (ALL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS) – £2,825,755

North-west England

Infrastructure projects (global application)

Location	Project
Blackburn, Shadsworth Industrial Estate	Sewage pumping station and rising main
Blackburn, Thompson Street Industrial Estate	Roads and sewers
Burnley, Rossendale Road Industrial Estate	Access road and services
Burnley, Heasandford Industrial Estate	Access road and services
Burnley, Smallshaw Sidings Industrial Estate	Access road and services
Ellesmere Port	Improve port facilities – provide transit shed, marshalling area, roadworks, lighting and drainage
Ellesmere Port, Little Stanney Industrial Estate	Roads
Fleetwood, Wyre, Copse Road	Improvement of access to docks and industrial complex in dock area
Halton, St Michaels Road Industrial Estate	Roads and sewers
Heysham, Lancs	Improve port facilities – provide two marshalling areas with lighting
Hyndburn, Huncoat Industrial Estate	Extension of access road and sewers (Phase II)
Knowsley, Knowsley Industrial Estate	Construction of cable extensions and substations
Liverpool, Newquay Roundabout	Improvement to road between the port and related industrial areas
Manchester, Denton West	Rebuilding a primary substation
Manchester, Stuart Street	Replace obsolete switchgear
Manchester, Trafford Park	Installation of two new primary transformers
Manchester, Hutchins Street Industrial Site	Roads, sewers and services
Manchester, Wellock Street Industrial Area	Roads, sewers and services
Merseyside, Sandon Dock and Langton Dock, Liverpool; Bridle Road Sefton; Jackson Street, St Helens	Roads, sewers and services on industrial sites
Neston, Ellesmere Port, Clayhill Industrial Estate	Roads and sewers
Pendle, Lomeshaye Industrial Estate	Provision of spur road to M65 and services
Pendle, Lomeshaye Industrial Estate	Link road from the A56 to the new spur road serving the industrial estate
Salford, Swinton Street Industrial Estate	Roads, sewers and services
Salford, Lower Broughton Industrial Estate	Roads, sewers and services
Salford, Cleggs Lane, Worsley, Industrial Site	Roads, sewers and services
Skelmersdale, Pimbo Industrial Area	Site preparation, making good old mineworkings
Skelmersdale, Gillibrands Industrial Area	Site preparation, making good old mineworkings, access road, sewers
St Helens, Jackson Street East, Baxters Lane East, Baxters Road West	Roads, sewers and services on three industrial sites
Warrington, Gatesworth Farm Industrial Estate	Roads, sewers and services
West Lancs, Burscough Airfield Industrial Estate	New access road
West Lancs, Burscough Airfield Industrial Estate	Road and sewers
Wigan, Chanters Industrial Estate	Roads, sewers and services
Wirral, Eastham Locks	Improve port facilities – provision of ship arrester gear at lock entrance
Wirral, Eastham Village	Improvement of existing industrial roads; construction of single carriageway to connect with the M531 motorway
Wyre, Larbreck Road	Improve access to industrial areas and docks

TOTAL AID IN RESPECT OF 35 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS – £953,040

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More community news

Information on European community matters and about member states can often be found in other sections of *Trade and Industry*. For this week's additional news, turn to the following pages:

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Country data

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Statistics

Current account of the UK balance of payments for November 890

Registrations of British, community and foreign films 901

Temporary suspensions of import duty

Three statutory instruments implementing temporary suspensions of import duties in the UK tariff during the first six months of 1977 have been laid before the House of Commons to come into operation on 1 January.

The Import Duties (Temporary Reductions and Exemptions) (no. 25) Order 1976 (Statutory Instrument 1976 no. 2054) implements the common customs tariff suspensions or reductions of duty on certain aircraft and aircraft components.

The Import Duties (Temporary Reductions and Exemptions) (no. 26) Order 1976 (Statutory Instrument 1976 no. 2095) provides for suspensions of intra-community rates of duty (mainly chemical and industrial goods) and associated reductions of the full rates.

The Import Duties (Temporary Reductions and Exemptions) (no. 27) Order 1976 (Statutory Instrument 1976 no. 2113) implements certain common customs tariff suspensions or reductions of duty on agricultural and industrial goods (other than aircraft and aircraft parts).

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Yorkshire and Humberside

Infrastructure projects (global application)

Location	Project
Barnsley, Carlton Industrial Estate (phases 2, 2B, 3, 4, 5A)	Roads, sewers and services
Barnsley, Platts Common (phase 4)	Roads and sewers
Barnsley, West Melton, Aldwarke, Ravenfield	Provision of 15km of 275kV overhead line
Bradford, Oldfield Treatment Plant	Uprating sedimentation tanks; enlarging outlet flow pipework
Bradford, Rockhill Lane, Bierley-Euroway Industrial Estate	Improve access road
Bridlington, North Wolds, Carnaby Industrial Estate	Substation and associated mains work
Bridlington, North Wolds, Carnaby Industrial Estate	Provision of main industrial estate services
Doncaster, Bentley Moor Lane, Carcroft Industrial Estate	Widening of road, provision of water and gas services
Kingston-upon-Hull, Howden Dyke Elm Tree House to South	Improve access to industrial wharf
Kingston-upon-Hull, Sutton Fields Industrial Estate	Substations and associated mains work
Kingston-upon-Hull, River Hull improvement scheme	Raising and strengthening the river banks to protect industrial development
Wakefield, Dale Lane, North Elmsall-access to Langthwaite Grange Industrial Estate	Improve existing access road
Wakefield, Langthwaite Grange Industrial Estate	Roads, sewers and surface water balancing reservoir; improvements to beck
Wakefield, Normanton Industrial Estate	Roads, sewers and services
Wakefield, Normanton Industrial Estate	Substations and associated mains work

TOTAL AID IN RESPECT OF 15 PROJECTS (GLOBAL APPLICATION) – £412,671

East Midlands

Infrastructure projects (global application)

Location	Project
Amber Valley, Derbyshire, Swannick Colliery Site	Roads and sewers
Amber Valley, Wimsey Way, Swannick Colliery Site	Extension of service road
Amber Valley, Meadow Lane Industrial Site	Land reclamation, regrading of railway siding, access road
Bassetlaw, Nottinghamshire, Plumtree Industrial Estate	Construction of road and sewers
Bolsover, Derbyshire, Clover Nook Industrial Estate	Roads and services
Chesterfield, Derbyshire, Chesterfield Trading Estate	Land reclamation, provision of roads and sewers
Chesterfield, Hartington Industrial Estate	Estate road and services
Chesterfield, Sheepbridge Industrial Estate, Barlow Brook	River training and bridge works

TOTAL AID IN RESPECT OF EIGHT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS – £177,390

West Midlands

TOTAL AID – £3,300

Infrastructure project (global application)

Location	Project
Oswestry, Salop	Development of estate (phase 2) – extension of roads, sewers, services

South-west England

Infrastructure projects

Location	Project
Caradon, Cornwall – South West Water Authority	Construction of a reservoir and ancillary works comprising a dam 26.5m high (storage capacity 28,320 million litres) across the River St Neot, and two subsidiary dams near Simonstone and at Searles Down; a pumping station to be incorporated in the main dam; various road diversions and improvements; pipelines to De Lank River and the St Cleer treatment works; various spine trunk main works – £193,650

Aid is given under a global application to the following projects:

Cornwall/West Devon	Telephone exchange buildings and exchange equipment
Helston, Kerrier, Industrial Estate at Water-ma-Trout	Roads and sewers
Kerrier, Cardrew Industrial Estate	Roads and sewers
Lanhydrock-Par, Cornwall	Construct seven miles of pipe installation and telemetry equipment to provide additional gas to industry
Liskeard, Caradon, Station Road Industrial Estate	Access road and services
Plymouth, Millbay Docks	New entrance road and pavement
Pool, Redruth, Kerrier – Industrial Estate at Dudnance Lane	Roads, sewers and services

TOTAL AID IN RESPECT OF SEVEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS (GLOBAL APPLICATION) – £336,751
TOTAL (ALL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS) – £530,401

Scotland

TOTAL AID (ALL PROJECTS) – £8,451,961.50

Industry projects

Location	Project
Dalzell, Motherwell – British Steel Corporation	The installation of additional slab heating furnaces and separate medium and heavy plate processing lines. The capacity at the Dalzell plant will be increased by about 100,000 tpa; this will mainly be plates in excess of 75mm thick which cannot be produced elsewhere. The mill will also concentrate on producing special quality plates in thinner gauges – £819,580
Newhouse, Lanarkshire and Peterhead, Aberdeenshire – General Motors (Scotland) Ltd	The expansion of capacity at the Newhouse factory to manufacture a range of heavy off-highway earth moving equipment under the trade name 'Terex', including rear dump haulers, crawler tractors and front-end loaders for

Location	Project
	the construction, mining and other industries. A small consequential expansion is required at the Peterhead factory which produces gears and other components for the 'Terex' range – £1,244,471
TOTAL – £2,064,051	

Infrastructure projects

Location	Project
Irvine New Town, Cunninghame, Strathclyde – Strathclyde Regional Council	Sewerage and sewage treatment and disposal scheme comprising the phased construction of a long (2,000m) sea outfall, with diffusers; a pumping station at the end of the 'land outfall'; and a treatment works which will take the effluent of all kinds from Irvine New Town and Old Town and the contents of the existing Irvine Valley sewer. The scheme also involves the replacement of the present inadequate Irvine Valley sewer with a larger-diameter pipe extending as far back as Darvel, approximately 32km from the sea – £684,367
Megget Water; Manor Valley; Meldon Hills; Lothian and Borders Region – Lothian Regional Council	Construction of an impounding reservoir and aqueduct. The scheme exploits the catchment of 10,870 hectares of St Mary's Loch by the construction of a reservoir on the Megget Water, the principal tributary to the loch. Megget Reservoir will be created by a 55m-high embankment dam. It will have a storage capacity of 61,400 million litres (Ml) and will yield 103Ml per day. Water from the reservoir will be delivered by a tunnel under the hills northward to the head of the Manor Valley from where it will be delivered by aqueduct pipeline over the Meldon Hills via existing reservoirs to the area of supply, a total distance of 45½km – £482,625
Aid is given under a global application to the following projects:	
Aberdeen, Altens Industrial Estate	Provision of pumping station, reservoir, associated trunk mains and site servicing
Aberdeen, Altens Industrial Estate	Internal servicing of industrial sites, main drainage and outfalls
Aberfeldy, Perth and Kinross	Advance factory
Baldowie, Dundee	Advance factory
Balmaha to Rowandennan, Central	Construction of a concrete service reservoir and pipeline
Bellshill, Motherwell	Advance factory
Blairgowrie (DC), Eastern	Advance factory
Bothwellpark, Motherwell	Advance factory
Cambuslang	Advance factories
Cambuslang	Site preparation, roads, sewers and a pump station
Campbeltown, Argyll	Reconstruct seaward end of new quay wall and old quay pierhead
Clydebank, Dumbarton	Two advance factories
Coatbridge Greenhills, Monklands	Advance factory
Colvend, Dumfries and Galloway	Concrete service reservoir and water mains
Cumnock and Doon	Advance factory
Dalbeattie, Stewartry	Advance factory
Dundee	Dighty Trunk Sewer for industrial and housing development
Duns, Berwickshire	Advance factory
Eaglesham to Hunterston	Industrial gas main
Easter Queenslie, Glasgow	Advance factory
Eriskay	Landing stage and approach road
Etna Industrial Estate, Craigneuk, Motherwell	Site services
Eyemouth, Berwickshire	Advance factory
Falkirk Lochlands	Advance factory
Giffordland to Hunterston	Reconditioning of existing mains; new storage tank; laying of a new main
Grangemouth	Construction of a forest products terminal
Glasgow	Replacement of existing cranes at King George V Dock by larger modern ones
Gretna (DC), Annandale and Eskdale	Advance factory
Inchinnan, Renfrew	Advance factory
Kilsyth and Cumbernauld	Advance factory
Kinning Park, Glasgow	Advance factory
Kirkcaldy	Advance factory
Kirkconnel, Nithsdale	Advance factory
Leith	Replacement of existing grain elevator
Livingston, West Lothian – Brucefield South Industrial Estate	Access road and surface water sewer
Livingston – Kirkton Campus Industrial Estate	Access road and bridge
Livingston – Williamston North Industrial Estate	Access road and sewer
Motherwell, Industrial Estate at Range Road	Site services
Motherwell, Netherton Industrial Estate	Site services
Newton Stewart, Wigtown	Advance factory
North Uist, Isles of Berneray	Surfaced single track road to serve the crofting community of Sandhill
Pitreavie Industrial Estate, Dunfermline	Access and internal roads and site servicing
Port Askaig, Islay, Argyll	Reconstruct quay wall and provision of lorry park and marshalling areas for ferry traffic
Shieldhall, Glasgow	Two advance factories
Southfield Industrial Estate, Kirkcaldy	Access roads
South Uist, West Kilbride	Surfaced single track road to serve the crofting community
Springburn, Cowlairs	Two advance factories
Stranraer, Wigtown	Advance factory
Tiree, Argyll	Water treatment and pumping station
Tobson, Isle of Lewis	Surfaced single track road to serve the crofting community
Tweedbank, Berwick and Lauderdale	Advance factory
Uig Bernera, Isle of Lewis	Widening and re-aligning of the road to Great Bernera Island and Uig
Vale of Leven, Dumbarton	Advance factory
Wester Gourdie, Dundee	Advance factory
Western Isles Islands, Isle of Harris	Surfaced single track road to serve the crofting community of Ardvie-Finsbay

TOTAL AID IN RESPECT OF 58 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS (GLOBAL APPLICATION) – £5,220,918.50
TOTAL (ALL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS) – £6,387,910.50

Continued on page 872

Temporary suspension of CCT: other member states requests

Details of certain new requests for temporary suspensions of the common customs tariff (CCT) for the period 1 July 1977 to 30 June 1978 were given in the 10 December issue of *Trade and Industry*. The Department of Trade has now been notified by the EEC commission of amendments to three items advertised. Details are as follows:

Tariff heading	Description	Amendment
32.07 C	Lanthanum oxy-bromide	Tariff heading amended to 28.52 B
38.11 C	2,3-Dihydro-2, 2-dimethylbenzofuran-7-yl-N-methyl-carbamate	2,3-Dihydro-2, 2-dimethylbenzofuran-7-yl-N-methyl-carbamate (75%) with appropriate additives
39.02 C XIV A	Propylene-ethylene copolymer with an ethylene content of 3% by weight (tolerance 2.8 to 3.2% by weight) in forms mentioned in Note 3(b) to Chapter 39	Description amended to: Propylene ethylene copolymer with an ethylene content of 4% by weight (tolerance 3.8 to 4.2% by weight) in forms mentioned in Note 3(b) to Chapter 39

The department has now also been notified of additional requests for new suspensions of the CCT for the period 1 July 1977 to 30 June 1978 in respect of the goods listed below. In each case a total suspension has been requested.

The department will wish to take account of UK interests in making its views known to the EEC before decisions are taken whether or not to grant these proposed suspensions. UK producers of the goods in question or of like or competing products are entitled to object where they consider that they are able to supply the whole or the greater part of the needs of the community and that their interests would be adversely affected by the loss or reduction of community preference on their exports to other member states.

Producers wishing to object to the granting of suspensions of the CCT on the goods listed below should provide as much as possible of the following information:

1 Estimated community (nine countries including the UK) demand in 1977 and 1978
2 Estimated UK demand in 1977 and 1978
3 UK production expected to be available in 1977 and 1978 for:
3.1 the UK market in 1977 and 1978;
3.2 the rest of the community in 1977 and 1978;
3.3 exports to other countries in the same years.

This information should be given in writing to the Department of Trade, General Division, Room 332, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, to arrive not later than 14 January 1977. Inquiries: tel. 01-215 5519 (chemicals) and 01-215 3576 (other goods).

Tariff heading	Description
29.02 B	1,2,3,4,5-Pentabromo-6-chlorocyclohexane
29.04 C V	2,2-Bis(bromomethyl) propanediol (*1)
29.08 A III (c)	Bis(pentabromophenyl) ether
29.13 D I	11β,17α,21-Trihydroxy-16β-methyl-pregna-1,4-diene-3,20-dione (*2)
29.14 B I	2,3-Epoxypropyl methacrylate

Tariff heading	Description
29.15 C	2*H*,3*H*-Hexachlorobicyclo[2,2,1]hept-5-ene-2,3-dicarboxylic anhydride (•3)
29.15 C III	Benzyl 2,2,4-trimethylpentyl phthalate
29.15 C III	Benzyl octyl phthalate
29.31 B	Cyclohexanethiol
29.35 Q	Chlorphenamine hydrogen maleate (INNM)
29.35 Q	Diphemanil metilsulfate
29.36	Trichloromethiazide (INN)
29.39 D II	Betamethasone 17-valerate (INNM)
29.39 D II	Betamethasone 21-(disodium phosphate) (INNM)
38.19 U	Mixture of butylated 4,4′-isopropylidenediphenol, octyldiphenylamine and dioctyldiphenylamine
39.01 C VII	Poly(oxytetramethylene) glycol
39.02 C XIV a	Copolymers of vinylidene chloride and acrylonitrile in one of the forms mentioned in Note 3(b) to Chapter 39
39.02 C XIV a	Chlorinated polyethylene containing not less than 25% by weight and not more than 48% by weight of chlorine, and in one of the forms mentioned in Note 3(b) to Chapter 39
45.01	Natural cork, unworked, crushed, granulated or ground; waste cork

• Classifications as given by requesting member states. The UK believes that classification of the items in question is: 1, 29.04 C V; 2, 29.13 B; and 3, 29.15 B.

Trade and Industry of 10 December (page 735) gave details of a review of existing suspensions of the CCT which are due to expire on 30 June 1977. The department has since been notified that for certain items which are currently subject to a temporary reduction in the CCT duty requests have been made for total suspension or greater reductions from 1 July 1977. Details are given below. The department will wish to take account of UK interests before decisions are taken, and representations from UK producers of these items should be sent to the address on p.871.

Tariff heading	Description	Present CCT suspended rate of duty	Proposed new suspended rate
03.01 B I q	ø Sardinops sagax, sardinops ocellata (pilchards), fresh chilled or frozen, whole, headless or in pieces, intended for the processing industry	8%	4%
03.01 B I q	Sturgeons, fresh, chilled or frozen, whole, headless or in pieces, intended for the processing industry	8%	Free
03.02 A I c	Anchovies (Engraulis sp.p), salted or in brine, whole, headless or in pieces, in barrels or other containers of a net capacity of 10kg or more	5%	Free
03.02 A I e	Salmon, salted or in brine, whole, headless on in pieces	4%	Free
03.02 A I f	Saithe (Gadus virens), salted or in brine, whole, headless or in pieces	7%	5%
03.02 A II d	Fillets of saithe (Gadus virens) salted or in brine	7%	5%
07.03 E	Mushrooms, excluding cultivated mushrooms, preserved in brine, in sulphur water or in preservative solutions, but not specially prepared for immediate consumption	4%	Free
16.04 C II	Spiced and salted herrings, packed in barrels, intended for the processing industry	12%	Unspecified
23.07 A	Fish or marine mammal solubles	2%	Free

ø Suspension requested for the period September 1977 to February 1978.

Wales

TOTAL AID (ALL PROJECTS) – £2,194,991

Industrial projects

Location	Project
Tafarnaubach, Ebbw Vale – British Steel Corporation	The installation of facilities for the production of coated steel strip for use in building and the manufacture of domestic appliances – £462,000

Aid is given under a global application to the following projects:

Cwmbran, Gwent – Siebe Gorman and Co Ltd	Manufacture of safety and rescue equipment for mines and marine works
Cwmbran, Gwent – Redifon Ltd	Manufacture of radio and telecommunications equipment
Llwynypia, Mid Glamorgan – 'W' Ribbons Ltd	Manufacture of military, naval and other marine webbings

TOTAL AID IN RESPECT OF THREE INDUSTRY PROJECTS (GLOBAL APPLICATION) – £535,413
TOTAL (ALL INDUSTRY PROJECTS) – £997,413

Infrastructure projects (global application)

Location	Project
Alyn and Deeside, Clwyd – Pinfold Lane Industrial Estate	Access road, street lighting and surface water drainage
Ammanford, Capel Hendre, Dyfed	Advance factory
Bagillt, Clwyd	Two advance factories
Bangor, Gwynedd	Advance factory
Barry, South Glamorgan	Advance factory
Brymbo, Wrexham Maelor	Reinforce electricity supply: plant, machinery and mains
Brynmawr, Gwent	Advance factory
Cardiff, South Glamorgan	Advance factory
Cardiff, South Glamorgan	Advance factory units – 4 x 5,000 sq ft
Ebbw Vale and Tredegar, Blaunau Gwent, Gwent	Telecommunications facilities for new industries
Holyhead, Gwynedd	Advance factory units – 2 x 5,000 sq ft
Llantrisant, Mid Glamorgan	Advance factory
Milford Haven, Dyfed	Advance factory
Newport, Gwent	Uprating 275kV switchgear
Newport, Gwent	Access road to area under industrial development
Rhondda, Mid Glamorgan	Telecommunications facilities for new industries
Rhymney Valley, Mid Glamorgan	Advance factory
Shotton, Clwyd	Advance factory
Swansea, West Glamorgan	Advance factory units – 4 x 5,000 sq ft
Tafarnaubach, Gwent	Advance factory
Wrexham, Clwyd	Two advance factories

TOTAL AID IN RESPECT OF 23 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS – £1,197,578

Northern Ireland

TOTAL AID – £2,237,194.50

Infrastructure projects (global application)

Location	Project
Antrim New Town	Provide cable and duct for telecommunications lineplant
Ballywonard, Newtownabbey	Complete extension to existing reservoir
Banbridge	Construction of 4.5km dual carriageway on main Belfast to Dublin road
Carnbane, Newry	Advance factory
Carrickfergus	Improve water supply and storage
Castlederg, Strabane	To supply water to the hill farming areas of Lisnacloon and Listymore
Culmore	Sewage disposal works to receive all foul drainage from west bank of the City of Londonderry
Dernawilt, Douglas Bridge Village, Straletterdallan, Baronscourt, Kesh, Clogher and Castelderg	Local line telephone
Downpatrick	To supply water to an industrial estate
Enniskillen, Killyhevlin Headworks	Treatment works to serve hill farming areas of Newporton, Castlecoole, Enniskillen Rural, Drummee, Cooleyermer and Bullycassidy
Enniskillen	Recreational and leisure centre
Flush River at Ballymacoss and Knockmore, Lisburn	Drainage works to prevent flooding at new industrial estate
Granville, Dungannon	Site development
Hydepark, Newtownabbey	Site development
Imeroo, Enniskillen	To supply water to hill farming areas of Clabby, Tempo and Ballyreagh
Knockmore, Lisburn	Telephone duct and cable network to serve industrial estate
Lisburn – Ballinderry Road	Site development
Lisburn	Knockmore/Ballymacoss scheme to supply water for industrial development
Lisburn	Knockmore/Laganbank Trunk Sewer to service industrial area
Lisburn	Duneight to Lisburn trunk main to supply water for industrial use
Lissue, Lisburn	Site development
Mullaghanagh, Dungannon	Service reservoir
Newry and Mourne, Leode Water Scheme	To supply water to hill farming areas of Hilltown and part of Drumgath
Pennyburn, Londonderry	Pumping station to pump sewage from Pennyburn to Culmore Sewage Works
Rathlin Island	Telephone exchange with STD facilities, radio link to Ballycastle exchange, associated power equipment
Sheriffs Mountain, Springhill Water Scheme, Londonderry	To supply water to the hill farming area of Upper Liberties
Strabane	Reconstruction of 0.5km of single carriageway leading to Ballycolman Industrial Estate
Templepatrick, Antrim	Reconstruction of 6km of single carriageway between Templepatrick and Belfast Airport
Tulnacross, Draperstown, Sixtowns, Carndaisy, Slievegallion, Moneymore, Cushendun, Cushendall	Local line telephone

TOTAL AID IN RESPECT OF 29 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS – £2,237,194.50

Final stages in UK transition to CCT: changes in import duties in 1977

For several years, a new edition of the *HM Customs and Excise Tariff and Overseas Trade Classification* has been published for 1 January. In 1977, however, the transitional period for adopting the EEC common customs tariff (CCT) comes to an end for almost all goods on 30 June and the next complete new edition of the United Kingdom tariff will be published for 1 July 1977.

At that date the final moves towards the CCT and the final reductions to zero duties for intra-community trade will have been made on all goods except for horticultural items. Because of the difference in the transitional timetables the penultimate move in the duties on horticultural goods takes place at 1 January 1977 and the final move on 1 January 1978.

Changes at 1 January

A substantial number of changes will be made to the customs tariff at 1 January 1977 and these are mainly incorporated in a major amendment (to the 1976 edition) which is now in course of distribution. Apart from relatively minor amendments to parts 1 to 7 (the preamble) this amends the main tariff schedule (part 8) to the extent necessary to give effect to:

the duty changes on horticultural products
certain changes in the structure of the tariff and in chapter notes
metrication of certain duty rates in chapter 2 and of statistical units of quantity in chapters 1, 2 and 16
certain changes in statistical descriptions and codings, particularly in tariff chapters 38, 44, 49, 68–71, 73, 74, 84–86, 90–93 and 97. These changes arise mainly from the incorporation in the tariff of further headings in Nimexe (the EEC's nomenclature of goods for the external trade statistics of the community and statistics of trade between member states).

It also amends parts of part 10 to provide for consequential changes carried through from the amendments to the main schedule (part 8).

Many of the remaining parts of the tariff, notably those containing rates of duty for the generalised system of tariff preferences (GSP), tariff quotas and the suspensions (temporary reductions and exemptions), are being reprinted as a series of supplementary amendments (the relevant data were not available when the main amendment went to press).

It should be noted that the main 1 January 1977 amendment is no. 40 and that nos. 35 to 39 will not be used in the amendment series.

Other changes in 1977

The final transitional moves on products covered by the common organisation of the market in beef and veal will be made at the beginning of the 1977/78 marketing year which is expected to be 4 April 1977. On 1 July 1977 the final transitional moves will be made on all other goods except horticultural items.

On 1 August 1977 the existing UK tariff subheadings for certain cereals in 07.06, 11.06 and 11.08 will be deleted from the tariff.

Statutory instruments

The Import Duties (General) (no. 10) Order 1976 (SI 1976 no. 2077) made under the Import Duties Act 1958 was laid before the House of Commons on 7 December. It amends the Import Duties (General) (no. 5) Order 1975. The main effects of the new general order are:

to provide for certain changes in the structure, changes in certain chapter notes and in chapter 2 the metrication of rates of duty
to make a further 20 per cent reduction in the duties on horticultural goods from other EEC countries making a total reduction of 80 per cent at 1 January 1977
to introduce at 1 January 1977 the fourth move towards the common customs tariff for imports of horticultural goods from third countries, ie to reduce the gap between the UK duty rates applied at 1 January 1972 and those of the CCT by 80 per cent
to provide for revocation in stages of the Import Duties (General) (no. 5) Order 1975 according to the final date of the transitional period for certain classes of goods.

Duty suspensions

The general order takes account of long-term CCT duty suspensions. Reductions and exemptions orders will adjust the rates established in the general order to take account of temporary CCT duty suspensions and to provide for temporary suspensions applicable only in the UK (which will end once the transitional period is over). Details of new temporary suspension orders to operate from 1 January will be provided in a separate notice.

Preferences for Mediterranean countries

For practical reasons, the general order does not provide for all the preferential rates. Those accorded to goods imported from certain countries, under community trade agreements for example, have been dealt with in separate orders. They are:

The Import Duties (Certain Mediterranean Countries) (Amendment) Order 1976 (SI 1976 no. 2078);
The Import Duties (Egypt) (Reductions) (Amendment) Order 1976 (SI 1976 no. 2079); The Import Duties (Israel) (Reductions) (Amendment) Order 1976 (SI 1976 no. 2053); The Import Duties (Spain) (Reductions) (Amendment no. 3) Order 1976 (SI 1976 no. 2072);
The Import Duties (Turkey) (Reductions and Exemptions) (Amendment) Order 1976 (SI 1976 no. 2073).

GSP for 1977

The EEC's generalised system of tariff preferences for developing countries (GSP) for 1977 does not require UK legislation. The GSP for ECSC goods will be provided by order. The UK's pre-accession GSP will be phased out by the end of the transitional period under the Import Duties (Developing Countries) (no. 4) Order 1975.

EEC tariff quotas for 1977

In addition to tariff quotas under the EEC's GSP many other tariff quotas for 1977, including most of those for imports from certain Mediterranean countries, will not require UK legislation but some separate orders will cover cases where EEC legislation is not adequate on its own to enable quotas to be opened. These include tariff quotas for imports both from all sources outside the EEC and also from particular sources (including the paper and board tariff quotas for Efta countries).

A notice provisionally listing tariff quotas (other than GSP tariff quotas) expected to be opened in 1977 was published in *Trade and Industry* on 19 November 1976 (page 542). A more detailed notice will appear early in the New Year.

New EEC-Israel protocols agreed

The EEC and Israel have agreed on the content of an additional protocol and a financial protocol to the EEC/Israel agreement of 1975.

The additional protocol is intended to supplement and strengthen the agreement's provisions for economic and technical co-operation and it defines the fields to which this co-operation will be extended. These includes the development of Israel's industry and economic infrastructure, co-operation in the agriculture and fisheries sector and in science and technology.

Under the financial protocol the European Investment Bank is to make available to Israel an amount of 30 million European units of account in loans, to assist in the financing of capital projects which promote Israel's industrialisation. It is hoped that both protocols will be signed early next year.

General inquiries should be addressed to the Department of Trade, Commercial Relations and Exports Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1, tel. 01-215 3707.

Distribution in Europe

'Distribution in Europe' is the title of a two-day conference being organised by the British Institute of Management Foundation on 9 and 10 March next year.

The conference will be concerned with reducing the costs of distribution while providing the right levels of service; and will also examine how to determine the correct holding of stock in each location and maintain the correct inventory item by item to meet required service levels.

The first part of the conference will consist of presentations by a leading expert in inventory management. This will be followed by case studies of actual situations in Europe to illustrate the practical application and benefits arising from use of the techniques being considered.

Inquiries should be addressed to the British Institute of Management, Management House, Parker Street, London WC2B 5PT, tel. 01-405 3456.

European community new legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* as indicated against each item. The *Official Journal* is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other member states' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7174/482/408). Other information may be obtained from the reference point given at the end of the item.

Common agricultural policy

The texts of the following regulations which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities:*

Wine. Regulation (EEC) 2878/76 amending regulation (EEC) 817/70 laying down special provisions relating to quality wines produced in specified regions (*Official Journal* L331, 30 November 1976).

Regulation (EEC) 2911/76 terminating private storage aid for table wine of the type A II (*Official Journal* L332, 1 December 1976).

Regulation (EEC) 2918/76 amending regulation (EEC) 947/70 laying down general rules for fixing the reference price and levying the countervailing charge for wine (*Official Journal* L333, 2 December 1976).

Regulation (EEC) 2925/76 fixing the reference prices for the period 16 December 1976 to 15 December 1977 in the wine sector (*Official Journal* L333, 2 December 1976).

Regulation (EEC) 2951/76 amending for the second time regulation (EEC) 2115/76 laying down general rules for the import of wines, grape juice and grape must (*Official Journal* L335, 4 December 1976).

Regulation (EEC) 2964/76 fixing the free-at-frontier reference prices applicable to wine imports from 16 December 1976 (*Official Journal* L338, 7 December 1976).

Milk and milk products. Regulation (EEC) 2879/76 amending regulation (EEC) 1530/76 as regards the final date for application of a specific provision on the payment of aid for skimmed-milk powder denatured or processed into compound feedingstuffs within the territory of another member state (*Official Journal* L331, 30 November 1976).

Cattle, beef and veal. Regulation (EEC) 2887/76 concerning the provision of information on the operation of the system of import licences and advance fixing certificates in the beef and veal sector (*Official Journal* L331, 30 November 1976).

Poultry and poultrymeat. Regulation (EEC) 2967/76 laying down common standards for the water content of frozen and deep-frozen chickens, hens and cocks (*Official Journal* L339, 8 December 1976).

Live plants and products of the flower growing industry. Regulation (EEC) 2971/76 amending regulations (EEC) 315/68 and (EEC) 537/70 as regards the quality standards for bulbs of Iris danfordiae and Iris reticulata (*Official Journal* L339, 8 December 1976).

Sugar. Regulation (EEC) 2990/76 on special detailed rules for the application of the system of import and export licences for sugar (*Official Journal* L341, 10 December 1976).

Customs regulations

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L335, 4 December 1976 contains the text of regulation (EEC) 2945/76 laying down provisions for the implementation of regulation (EEC) 754/76 on the customs treatment applicable to goods returned to the customs territory of the community.

Further information: HM Customs and Excise, International Customs Division G, Kings Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE, tel. 01-626 1515 ext. 2143.

Harmonisation of legislation

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L336, 4 December 1976, contains the texts of the following directives:

Radio interference. Directive 76/889/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to radio interference caused by electrical household appliances, portable tools and similar equipment.

Directive 76/890/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to the suppression of radio interference with regard to fluorescent lighting luminaires fitted with starters.

Further information: Home Office, Radio Regulatory Department, DRT/RIB, Waterloo Bridge House, Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UA, tel. 01-275 3078/3162.

Electrical energy meters. Directive 76/891/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to electrical energy meters.

Further information: Department of Energy, Electricity Division, Thames House South, Millbank, London SW1P 4QJ, tel. 01-211 4161.

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L340, 9 December 1976, contains the texts of the following directives:

Materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs. Directive 76/893/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs.

Further information: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Great Westminster House, Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AE, tel. 01-216 7277/6223.

Pesticide residues on fruit and vegetables. Directive 76/895/EEC relating to the fixing of maximum levels for pesticide residues in and on fruit and vegetables.

Further information: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, EPPIC (Branch A), Great Westminster House, Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AE, tel. 01-216 6089/6276/6278.

Applications for copies of the *Official Journal of the European Communities* containing the legislation referred to should be made to HMSO and not to the inquiry points given in the notices.

EEC-Canada joint committee meets for first time

The first meeting of the EEC-Canada joint co-operation committee was held in Brussels on 10 December. The committee was set up under the framework agreement on commercial and economic co-operation which entered into force on 1 October.

In their opening statements to inaugurate the committee Francois Xavier Ortoli, president of the commission, and Don C. Jamieson, Secretary of State for External Affairs, said that in establishing the committee, Canada and the EEC had taken a major step forward which would permit the realisation of the objectives of the framework agreement. They emphasised that joint efforts under the agreement should now be vigorously pursued.

The two delegations adopted rules of procedure for the joint co-operation committee and discussed the committee's work programme for the coming year.

The committee will be assisted in the practical implementation of the provisions of the framework agreement by two sub-committees. These will help to promote commercial and economic relations and the identification of areas suitable for industrial co-operation.

Earlier in the week on 8 and 9 December the half-yearly consultation between the EEC and Canada took place in Brussels. The delegations were led by Mr Gallacher of the EEC's directorate general for external relations and Mr McPhail, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs. There was an exchange of views on the Tokyo round of multilateral trade negotiations in Geneva, the north-south dialogue in Paris and an examination of major international problems and bilateral trade problems.

Overseas trade news

UK-Poland sign commercial agreement and shipbuilding contract

A new five-year co-operation agreement between the UK and the Polish People's Republic was signed by Prime Minister James Callaghan and Polish Prime Minister Piotr Jaroszewicz on 16 December.

The two Prime Ministers agreed on the establishment of a joint UK-Polish company which would build 22 bulk carriers for Poland in UK yards, in co-operation with the Polish shipbuilding industry. Building of these ships would start as soon as the arrangements have been finalised.

Mr Jaroszewicz, accompanied by Jerzy Olszewski, Polish Minister of Foreign Trade and Shipping, was on a two-day visit to the UK (15-17 December) at the invitation of Mr Callaghan.

Mr Olszewski is no stranger to these shores. He visited Britain in September 1975 as guest of the then Secretary of State for Trade, Peter Shore, when both ministers signed a programme of co-operation implementing the long-term co-operation agreement, which was signed in March 1973.

On this occasion Mr Olszewski and Mr Dell had discussions on trade and economic matters, which took place in a friendly and positive atmosphere. The ministers reviewed the growth in UK-Polish trade over the last five years, noting that it had increased in value two and a half times during this period, from £124 million in 1971 to £296 million in 1975. Mr Dell stressed that British industry had a great deal to offer to Poland in a number of vital sectors, including agriculture, food processing, metallurgy, aircraft, shipbuilding, building construction and mining equipment.

Welcoming the increasing range of contacts and co-operation between British and Polish industry and looking forward to a further expansion in the future, the ministers signed a trade protocol before presiding over the signing of agreements and contracts between UK firms and Polish enterprises.

Orders worth at least £70 million were among the commercial agreements and contracts signed, including letters of intent for two large contracts involving Cementation International for the construction of a new air terminal building worth about £45 million for the Polish airline LOT, and for two new hotels at Gdynia worth about £22 million. These represent a break-through by a British firm into the field of building construction in Poland where there may be further good opportunities in the future.

A £5 million contract was also signed involving a joint UK-Polish company, Polibur, in supplying British equipment for a cyclohexanone plant in Czechoslovakia.

Other agreements were also concluded, involving ICI and Shell International for increased trade in chemicals, Anglo Chemical and Ore Co Ltd for guaranteed supplies of Polish copper on a long-term basis, the joint UK-Polish company Polish Timber Products Ltd for supplies of Polish sawn timber also on a long-term basis, and Spink and Beeching (Sales) Ltd for supplies of typewriters.

Secretary of State for Trade, Edmund Dell (left), with Jerzy Olszewski, Polish Minister of Foreign Trade and Shipping on 16 December.

British aid for overseas projects

Britain is to make a £15.4 million grant to Nepal to help the construction of a 50km all-weather road through mountainous terrain in the eastern region of the country. The road, to run from Dharan, a market town in the eastern lowlands, to Dhankuta, a regional centre in the hills to the north, will open up this rural area for much needed agricultural and other development.

In addition, £900,000 is to be provided from aid funds over the next five years for rural development surveys in the area, based on Dhankuta. The construction of the road will be carried out under the direction of the Property Services Agency of the Department of the Environment.

A grant of up to £2.63 million is being made to Pakistan for supplying fibreglass linings for approximately 2,700 tubewells over the next three years. The tubewells will be sunk for the purpose of draining water-logged land and improving irrigation in various parts of Pakistan. Water from the wells will also help to wash out surface salts in areas where the present degree of salinity in the soil has made it unsuitable for good cultivation.

Britain is providing a £500,000 grant from aid funds to Sri Lanka to help the development of the island's sugar industry at Hingurana in the dry eastern zone. The aim of the project is the expansion of sugar production at the Hingurana factory of the Sri Lanka Sugar Corporation, by the conversion of 2,500 acres near the factory to sugar cultivation from paddy fields.

The grant will cover the cost of British equipment for land-levelling, ditch-digging, canal construction and recurrent cultivation.

A further £130,000 is being provided from aid funds to help the government of Mali to improve local methods of grain storage. The aims of the project – to be carried out in collaboration with the Food and Agricultural Organisation's Office for Special Relief Operations – are to train local Malians in techniques of good storage management and pest control with a view to setting up a permanent quality control unit to monitor the conditions of locally stored grain and ensure the good quality of grain exports. The British experts working on the project will also advise on a long-term building programme for permanent grain stores.

ECGD backs £68 million loans for South Korea

Two £34 million loans which European Banking Company Limited (EBC) has made available to Dow Chemical Korea Ltd and Korea Pacific Chemical Corporation of South Korea has been guaranteed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department. Finance for the loans has been provided by Midland Bank Ltd.

The loans will help finance contracts awarded to Fluor (Great Britain) Ltd. The first contract with Dow Chemical Korea Ltd is for a plant producing chlorine and caustic soda; the second contract with Korea Pacific is for a plant producing vinyl chloride monomer, low density polyethylene and ethylene dichloride.

Both plants will form part of the Yeo-su chemical complex and are scheduled for commissioning mid-1979.

Notices to importers

Issued by the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH. Telephone inquiries should be addressed to the number at the end of the notice.

1593: Imports of rum from the Dollar Area

On and after 1 January 1977, the following goods, originating in the Dollar Area may be imported under the authority of the Open General Import Licence (ie without the need for an individual import licence).

ex 22.09 Rum

The Dollar Area, as defined in the Open General Import Licence, means Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, the Republic of Honduras, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, the Philippines, the United States of America and Venezuela.

Inquiries: Import Licensing Branch, tel. 01-603 4644, ext 272.

1594: Imports from the state trading area: 1977 quota arrangements

The 1977 quota arrangements for imports into the community from Bulgaria, China, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic and Berlin (East), Hungary, Poland, Romania and the USSR will shortly be published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*. Meanwhile the following lists show the provisional 1977 quota levels for imports into the UK from these countries. If, following the community legislation to implement these arrangements there is any change in the items or quantities listed, a further notice to importers will be published.

Goods on Open Individual Licence

Certain goods may be imported without restriction as to quantity or value under Open Individual Licences (OIL). Applicants for such licences should complete separate forms ILB/A for each category of goods required, quoting the OIL prefix of the category shown in annex A to this notice. *Each application should be accompanied by a statement as worded in annex B.* On page 3 of the application form *only* the applicant's name, address and reference (if any) should be entered.

Licensing arrangements (except China)

Licences will be issued to the values or quantities shown in the lists below only on production of quota certificates issued by the appropriate state trading area authority, ie on the same basis as has applied in the past. All applications for licences should be made on form ILB/A and sent to Import Licensing Branch at the address shown above. The quota number, description of goods and tariff heading numbers should be inserted on page 3 of the form. In the case of Romania, the arrangements for categories 1 to 21 set out in notice to importers no. 1589, published in *Trade and Industry* on 10 December 1976 will continue to apply, in addition to those set out in this notice.

Licensing arrangements for China

The quotas for restricted goods from the People's Republic of China are administered by Import Licensing Branch, and will be allocated on the basis of past trade. Traders wishing for allocations from the quotas are invited to apply to Import Licensing Branch, at the address shown above, not later than 1 February 1977. Applications should be made on form ILB/A and should be accompanied by a statement of past trade by the applicant, in respect of each quota group applied for, for each of the years 1974, 1975 and 1976, supported by a report by a qualified, practising, independent accountant. Pro formas for this purpose are available from Import Licensing Branch, and applications will only be dealt with on receipt of correctly completed forms. Page 1 of the form ILB/A should be completed; on page 2 only the amount applied for need be stated; on page 3 and copy the applicant's name and address, description of goods, tariff heading and countries of consignment and origin should be entered. No guarantee can be given that demands can be met and no firm contracts should be completed until the importer is assured of an import licence by Import Licensing Branch. Import licences will be issued only against evidence of firm offers from China. Successful applicants will be notified of their allocations and advised, where appropriate, of the last date by which licences must be taken up. Any balances of allocations not taken up by that date will become available for redistribution, and may be allocated to other applicants.

Some quotas have been under heavy pressure for several years and many requests have already been received for allocations from the 1977 quotas; it is unlikely therefore that newcomers to these categories will be granted licences and importers should not place orders with suppliers for these until it has been confirmed that they will be granted import licences. These quotas are as follows:

Yarns, threads and woven fabrics of cotton, man-made fibres or mixtures thereof; made up textiles; cotton towels; cotton handkerchiefs; gloves; pottery.

In the case of category 9 men's and boys' shirts of synthetic textile fibres, in view of the quantities in transit and licensed at the time the restriction was announced in 1976, there will be no further licensing of this category in 1977.

Importers wishing to have their allocation split between two or more licences should submit the appropriate number of application forms.

Other requirements as regards agricultural and food products

Under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the EEC, CAP licences are required for the import of most agricultural products, full details of which are given in the Commodity leaflets issued by the Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce. Further inquiries should be addressed to:

The Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce, Fountain House, 2 West Mall, The Butts (Reading, RG1 7QW, tel. 0734 583626.

Agricultural and food imports are subject to animal, public or plant health requirements (and qualitative restrictions in the case of seeds). Information may be obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food at the following addresses:

Animal health requirements Animal Health Division 1D, Hook Rise South, Tolworth, Surrey KT6 7NF, tel. 01-337 6611 ext. 568.
Plant health requirements Plant Health Branch, Horticulture Division 1C, Great Westminster House, Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AE, tel. 01-216 7566.
Public health requirements Animal Health Divisions 4A and 4B, 11th floor, Tolworth Tower, Tolworth, Surrey KT6 7DX, tel. 01-337 6611; Division 4A (fresh poultry and meat) ext. 111, Division 4B (other meats) ext. 95.

Imports for re-export

Imports of restricted textiles from the state trading area will not be set off against the quotas if they are re-exported

1 outside the EEC
2 in the case of categories P1 to P4 from Romania, outside the UK

in the same state or after limited processing.

The general import licensing arrangements for restricted textiles re-exported from the UK are set out in notice to importers 1441.

UK import surveillance

In addition to the goods covered by this notice and notice to importers 1589 most other textiles and certain other items consigned from the state trading area and other non-EEC countries are subject to UK surveillance licensing arrangements. Descriptions of the goods and the licensing arrangements are set out in notices to importers 1484 and 1502.

Inquiries

Import Licensing Branch, tel. 01-603 4644; China ext. 272, Other ext. 280.

Re-export: Chemicals and Textiles Division, tel. 061-832 5541.

Annex A

Goods which may be imported under Open Individual Licence from Albania, Bulgaria, the People's Republic of China, Czechoslovakia,

EXPORT YEAR

Over 1200 companies are already taking part in Export Year. But there is still plenty of time to join them. Write to or phone the Export Year Office, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1 0ET. Tel. 01-215 5180/3393/5773.

the German Democratic Republic and Berlin (East), Hungary, Democratic Kampuchea, Laos, the People's Republic of Mongolia, North Korea, Poland, Romania, the USSR and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Tariff heading OIL prefix	Description
ex 93.04 EA/RFD	Smooth bore guns having a barrel not less than 24 in in length measured from the muzzle to the point at which the charge is exploded on firing: sporting rifles
ex 93.05 EA/RFD	Air guns, air rifles or air pistols capable of discharging a missile with a kinetic energy in excess, in the case of an air pistol of 6 ft lb or in the case of an air gun or air rifle, of 12 ft lb.
ex 93.07 EA/RFD	Ammunition for sporting rifles

Note: Open Individual Licences for imports against ex 93.04 ,ex 93.05 and ex 93.07 will be issued to registered firearms dealers only.

Goods which may be imported under Open Individual Licence from USSR, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic and Berlin (East), Hungary, Poland and Romania (1)

Tariff heading OIL prefix	Description
50.04 EA/H	Silk yarn not put up for retail sale
ex 50.07 EA/H	Silk yarn *other than yarn spun from noil or other waste silk* (2), put up for retail sale
ex 50.09 EA/H	Woven fabrics of silk or of waste silk, of a weight exceeding 585g/10m² if undischarged or exceeding 485g/10m² if discharged or partly discharged
ex 50.10 EA/H	Woven fabrics of noil silk, of a weight exceeding 585g/10m² if undischarged or exceeding 485g/10m² if discharged or partly discharged
ex 64.01 EA/H	Footwear with outer soles of rubber and uppers of artificial plastic material *but excluding wellington boots*: footwear with outer soles and uppers of artificial plastic material *but excluding wellington boots*
ex 64.02 EA/H	Footwear with outer soles of leather or composition leather: footwear with outer soles of rubber (but with uppers mainly of leather or imitation suede) or of artificial plastic material

1 An importer wishing to import the above goods from Albania, the People's Republic of China, Democratic Kampuchea, Laos, the People's Republic of Mongolia, North Korea or the Socialist Republic of Vietnam must apply for a specific import licence. 2 Goods covered by an Open Individual Licence may continue to be imported by the licence.

Annex B

Department of Trade
Import Licensing Branch
Charles House
375 Kensington High Street
London W14 8QH

UNDERTAKING BY IMPORTER

If an Open Individual Licence is issued in respect of my/our application(s) reference.....dated..... relating to imports from Albania, Bulgaria, the People's Republic of China, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic and Berlin (East), Hungary, Democratic Kampuchea, Laos, the People's Republic of Mongolia, North Korea, Poland, Romania, the USSR and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam under the provisions of notice to importers No. 1594 I/we undertake to supply to the Department of Trade such information about imports under the licence as may be requested from time to time.

Name and address of applicant:

.....

.....

.....

.....

Signature .....

Status.....

(Proprietor, partner, company director, company secretary)

Date .....

Imports from Bulgaria

Quotas for the import into the UK during the 12 months commencing 1 January 1977, of goods from Bulgaria which remain subject to quantitative restriction are set out below:

No.	CCT heading no.	Description	Value £1,000 cif or quantity
1	ex 07.01	Fresh vegetables, being:	
		a Green beans during the period 1 June to 30 September	10 tonnes
		b Lettuce and endive during the periods 1 January to 15 June and 15 November to 31 December	10 tonnes
		c Tomatoes during the period 15 May to 31 October	400 tonnes
2	36.06	Matches (excluding Bengal matches)	5
3	53.11	Woven fabrics of wool or fine animal hair	66.95
4		Apparel of knitted or crocheted wool or fine animal hair, the following:	
	ex 60.04	Under garments of knitted or crocheted wool	59.25
	ex 60.05	Outer garments and other articles of apparel of knitted or crocheted wool or fine animal hair	
5		Fabrics and made-up textile articles of cotton, the following:	
	55.07, 55.08, 55.09	Woven fabrics of cotton	21.85
	ex 60.05, ex 62.02	Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen, curtains and other furnishing articles of cotton	
	ex 62.01	Travelling rugs and blankets (*other than electric blankets*) of woven cotton	
	ex 62.05	Other made-up textile articles of woven cotton, excluding those made up from narrow fabrics	
6		Woven apparel, the following:	
	ex 61.01, ex 61.02, ex 61.03, ex 61.04	Outer garments of woven man-made fibres or flax Under garments of woven cotton or flax	206
	ex 61.06	Shawls and other articles falling within heading no. 61.06 of woven man-made fibres or flax	
	ex 61.07	Ties, bow-ties and cravats of woven flax	
7	ex 64.01, ex 64.02	Footwear wholly of rubber or with uppers mainly of rubber. Footwear with rubber soles and textile uppers	45
8	69.11, 69.12, 69.13	Domestic and ornamental china and earthenware	85
9	ex 85.15	Transistorised radio broadcast receivers and radiograms	50
10	ex 85.15	Transistorised television broadcast receivers with screens of 18 inches and over in size*	25

* The reference to screen size is to the diagonal measurement.

Imports from China

Quotas for the import into the UK during the 12 months beginning 1 January 1977 of goods from the People's Republic of China which remain subject to quantitative restriction are set out below:

No.	CCT heading no.	Description	Value £1,000 cif or quantity
1	36.06	Matches (excluding Bengal matches)	16
2		Gloves, the following:	
	ex 39.07, ex 40.13, ex 42.03, ex 43.03, ex 43.04, ex 60.02, ex 61.10	Plastic gloves Rubber gloves Leather gloves, including gloves of leather and furskin or of leather and artificial fur Gloves of furskin Gloves of artificial fur Gloves knitted or crocheted to shape, not elastic or rubberised Gloves of woven cotton or flax	166.9
3	50.04, ex 50.07	Thrown silk yarns	10.3
4	ex 50.09, ex 50.10	Woven fabrics of silk of a weight exceeding 585g/10m² in the gum, or exceeding 485g/10m² not in the gum	721
5	53.11	Woven fabrics of wool or fine animal hair	72.1
6	55.05, 55.06, 55.07, 55.08, 55.09	Cotton yarn Woven fabrics of cotton	3,690,000m²
	56.05	Yarn of man-made fibres not put up for retail sale	
	51.04, 56.07	Woven fabrics of man-made fibres	
	ex 58.04	Woven pile and chenille fabrics of cotton or of man-made fibres	
	58.05	Woven narrow fabrics of cotton or of man-made fibres	
	ex 59.13	Woven elastic fabrics of man-made fibres exceeding 30cm in width, or of cotton	
7	ex 60.04	Under garments of knitted or crocheted wool	236.9
	ex 60.05	Outer garments and other articles of apparel of knitted or crocheted wool or fine animal hair	
8		Textile manufactures, being:	
		a Household textiles of which not more than 343,400m², for cotton towels being:	
	ex 60.05	Bed linen, table linen, curtains and other furnishing articles wholly or mainly of knitted or crocheted cotton or man-made fibres	
		Other articles for household use wholly or mainly of knitted or crocheted man-made fibres	
	ex 62.01	Travelling rugs and blankets (*other than electric blankets*), wholly or mainly of woven cotton or man-made fibres	
	ex 62.02	Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen, curtains and other furnishing articles wholly or mainly of woven cotton, man-made fibres or flax	531.75
		b Apparel, the following:	
	ex 60.04, ex 60.05	Under and outer garments and other articles of apparel of knitted or crocheted cotton or man-made fibres	
	ex 61.01, ex 61.02	Outer garments of woven cotton, man-made fibres or flax	
	ex 61.03, ex 61.04	Under garments of woven cotton or flax	
	ex 61.05	Handkerchiefs (of which not more than 149,783m² for cotton handkerchiefs) of woven cotton or man-made fibres	
	ex 61.06	Shawls, scarves, mufflers and the like of woven cotton, man-made fibres or flax	
	ex 61.07	Ties, bow-ties, and cravats of woven cotton or flax	
	ex 61.09	Corsetry and the like of woven cotton	

No.	CCT heading no.	Description	Value £1,000 cif or quantity
9	ex 61.03	Men's and boys' shirts of synthetic textile fibres	450,000 pcs
10	64.01 64.02	Footwear	135
11	65.05 65.06	Headgear, not being wholly or partly of wool or fur felt	759.15
12	69.11 69.12 69.13	Domestic and ornamental china and earthenware (of which not more than £188,500 for ornamental ware and not more than £31,200 for pottery jars containing stem ginger or duck eggs)	457.5

Imports from Czechoslovakia

Quotas for the import into the UK during the 12 months beginning 1 January 1977 of goods from Czechoslovakia which remain subject to quantitative restriction are set out below:

No.	CCT heading no.	Description	Value £1,000 cif or quantity
1	36.06	Matches (excluding Bengal matches)	656,500 short standards
2		Gloves, of which not more than £51,500 for leather gloves, the following:	
	ex 39.07 ex 40.13 ex 42.03 ex 43.03 ex 43.04 ex 60.02 ex 61.10	Plastic gloves Rubber gloves Leather gloves, including gloves of leather and furskin or of leather and artificial fur Gloves of furskin Gloves of artificial fur Gloves knitted or crocheted to shape, not elastic or rubberised Gloves of woven cotton or flax	82.4
3	51.04 56.07 ex 60.01	Woven and knitted fabrics of man-made fibres	1,236,000m²
4	53.11	Woven fabric of wool or fine animal hair	76,600m²
5	ex 54.05	Woven fabric of flax, *other than tea towelling* (of which not more than 40,000m² for sail cloth or canvas of flax of a weight not less than 410g/m²)	375,000m²
6	ex 54.05 ex 62.02	Tea towelling and tea towels of flax	242,500m²
7	55.07 55.08 55.09 ex 58.04	Woven fabrics of cotton	2,025,282m²
8	ex 58.04	Woven pile and chenille fabrics excluding cotton corduroy	154.5
9	58.05 ex 59.13	Woven narrow fabrics Woven elastic fabrics of cotton, man-made fibres exceeding 30cm in width, wool, fine animal hair or flax	236.9
10		Stockings and socks, the following:	
	ex 60.03 ex 60.10	Of knitted cotton, man-made fibres or wool Of woven cotton	92.7
11		Apparel, the following:	
	ex 60.04 ex 60.05	Under garments of knitted or crocheted cotton, man-made fibres or wool Outer garments and other articles of apparel of knitted or crocheted cotton, man-made fibres, wool or fine animal hair	329.6
12		Household textiles (of which not more than 279,540m² for cotton goods and 390,000m² for goods of flax) (excluding tea towels of flax), being:	
	ex 60.05	Bed linen, table linen, curtains and other furnishing articles wholly or mainly of knitted or crocheted cotton or man-made fibres	
	ex 62.01	Other articles for household use wholly or mainly of knitted or crocheted man-made fibres, wool or fine animal hair Travelling rugs and blankets wholly or mainly of woven cotton, man-made fibres, wool or fine animal hair	1,846,321m²
	ex 62.02	Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen, curtains and other furnishing articles wholly or mainly of woven cotton, man-made fibres or flax	
13		Woven apparel, the following:	
	ex 61.01 ex 61.02	Outer garments of woven cotton, man-made fibres or flax	
	ex 61.03 ex 61.04	Under garments of woven cotton or flax (of which not more than £150,671 for shirts)	
	ex 61.05	Handkerchiefs (excluding embroidered handkerchiefs) of woven cotton, man-made fibres or flax	612.85
	ex 61.06	Shawls, scarves, mufflers and the like of woven cotton, man-made fibres or flax	
	ex 61.07	Ties, bow-ties and cravats of woven cotton or flax	
	ex 61.09	Corsetry and the like of woven cotton	
14	ex 61.01	Men's and boys' suits of wool	35,000 pcs
15	ex 61.01	Men's and boys' jackets, blazers and the like, of wool	60,000 pcs
16	ex 62.04	Tarpaulins, sails, awnings, sunblinds, tents and camping goods of woven cotton	55.8
17	ex 64.01 ex 64.02	Footwear wholly of rubber or with uppers mainly of rubber. Footwear with rubber soles and textile uppers	120
18	65.01 65.03 65.05 65.06	Headgear (of which not more than £73,645 for hats and hoods of wool or fur felt)	133.9
19	69.11 69.12 69.13	Domestic and ornamental china and earthenware	372.5
20	ex 85.15	Transistorised radio and television broadcast receivers and radiograms (of which not more than £130,000 for television receivers)	195
21	ex 85.21	Electronic valves and semi-conductors	255

A library for exporters

Foreign trade statistics and other economic statistics from almost every country in the world are available for reference in the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library at Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU. A modern well-equipped library of over 85,000 volumes, it has a reading room for visitors, and provides a document-copying service. There are trade directories covering 150 countries, and an expanding collection of trade catalogues of overseas manufacturers. The library opens from 9 to 5.30, Mondays to Fridays (Tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 368 or Telex No. 886143).

Imports from the German Democratic Republic

Quotas for the import into the UK during the 12 months beginning 1 January 1977 of goods from the German Democratic Republic which remain subject to quantitative restriction are set out below:

No.	CCT heading no.	Description	Value £1,000 cif or quantity
1	36.06	Matches (excluding Bengal matches)	12.5
2		Gloves, the following:	
	ex 39.07 ex 40.13 ex 42.03 ex 43.03 ex 60.02 ex 61.10	Plastic gloves Rubber gloves Leather gloves, including gloves of leather and furskin or of leather and artificial fur Gloves of furskin Gloves knitted to shape or crocheted to shape, not elastic or rubberised Gloves of woven cotton or flax	15.45
3		Fabrics of man-made fibres, the following:	
	51.04 56.07 ex 60.01	Woven fabrics of man-made fibres Knitted or crocheted fabrics of man-made fibres	289,400m²
4	ex 53.11	Woven fabrics of wool or fine animal hair or fabrics in which wool or fine animal hair represents 50% or more by weight	414.6
5		Woven fabrics and made-up textile articles of flax, the following:	
	ex 54.05 ex 62.02 ex 62.05	Woven fabrics of flax *other than tea towelling* Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen (*other than tea towels*), curtains and other furnishing articles of woven flax Other made-up textile articles of woven flax excluding those made up from narrow fabrics	5.15
6		Stockings and socks, the the following:	
	ex 60.03 ex 61.10	Of knitted cotton, man-made fibres or wool Of woven cotton	15.45
7		Apparel (of which not more than £72,100 for stocking tights and not more than £39,219 for woven cotton garments), following:	
	ex 60.04 ex 60.05	Under garments of knitted or crocheted cotton, man-made fibres or wool Outer garments and other articles of apparel of knitted or crocheted cotton, man-made fibres, wool or fine animal hair	
	ex 61.01 ex 61.02	Outer garments of woven cotton, man-made fibres or flax	354.1
	ex 61.03 ex 61.04	Under garments of woven cotton or flax	
	ex 61.06	Shawls and other articles falling within heading no. 61.06 of woven cotton, man-made fibres or flax	
	ex 61.07	Ties, bow-ties and cravats of woven cotton or flax	
	ex 61.09	Corsets and other articles falling within heading no. 61.09 of woven cotton	

No.	CCT heading no.	Description	Value £1,000 cif or quantity
8		Travelling rugs and blankets *other than electric blankets* (of which not more than £16,182 for those made of cotton or of man-made fibres including a maximum of £11,032 for those made of cotton), the following:	
	ex 60.05	Of knitted or crocheted cotton or man-made fibres	61.8
	ex 62.01	Of woven cotton, man-made fibres, wool or fine animal hair	
9	ex 61.01	Men's and boys' suits of wool	23,000 pcs
10	ex 62.02	Table mats of man-made fibres	10.3
11	ex 62.04	Woven cotton tents	8.35
12	69.11, 69.12, 69.13	Domestic and ornamental china and earthenware (of which not more than £167,300 for ornamental ware)	415
13	ex 69.11, ex 69.13	Meissen porcelain	63
14	ex 85.15	Transistorised radio broadcast receivers and transistorised radiograms	120
15	ex 85.15	Transistorised television broadcast receivers with screens of 18 in and over in size*	50
16	ex 85.21	Electronic valves and semi-conductors	140

* The reference to screen size is to the diagonal measurement.

Imports from Hungary

Quotas for the import into the UK during the 12 months commencing 1 January 1977 of goods from Hungary which remain subject to quantitative restriction are set out below:

No.	CCT heading no.	Description	Value £1,000 cif or quantity
1	ex 07.01	Fresh vegetables, being:	
		a Tomatoes during the period 15 May to 31 October	50 tonnes
		b Green beans during the period 1 June to 30 September	10 tonnes
		c Lettuce and endive during the periods 1 January to 15 June and 15 November to 31 December	10 tonnes
2	36.06	Matches (excluding Bengal matches)	80
3		Gloves (of which not more than 185,000 pairs for leather gloves or alternatively 335,000 pairs for fabric gloves), the following:	
	ex 39.07	Plastic gloves	360,000 pr
	ex 40.13	Rubber gloves	
	ex 42.03	Leather gloves, including gloves of leather and furskin or of leather and artificial fur	
	ex 43.03	Gloves of furskin	
	ex 60.02	Gloves knitted to shape or crocheted to shape, not elastic or rubberised	
	ex 61.10	Gloves of woven cotton or flax	
4		Fabrics of man-made fibres, the following:	
	51.04, 56.07	Woven fabrics of man-made fibres	1,338.300m²
	ex 60.01	Knitted or crocheted fabrics of man-made fibres	
5		Fabrics and made-up textile articles of wool or fine animal hair, the following:	
	53.11	Woven fabrics of wool or fine animal hair	46.35
	ex 62.01	Travelling rugs and blankets (*other than electric blankets*) of woven wool or fine animal hair	
	ex 62.05	Other made-up textile articles of woven wool or fine animal hair, excluding those made-up from narrow fabrics	
6		Woven fabrics and made-up textile articles of flax, the following:	
	ex 54.05, ex 62.02	a Tea towelling and tea towels of flax	184,000m²
	ex 54.05	b Other woven fabrics of flax	338,000m²
	ex 62.02	Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen (*other than tea towels*), curtains and other furnishing articles of woven flax	
	ex 62.05	Other made-up textile articles of woven flax excluding those made up from narrow fabrics	
7	55.07, 55.08, 55.09	Woven fabrics of cotton (of which not more than 2,316.031m² for finished fabrics)	3,474.905m²
8	ex 58.05, ex 59.13	Narrow fabrics of woven cotton or wool or of non-elastic or non-rubberised knitted or woven man-made fibres	97.85
9	ex 58.10	Embroidery in the piece in strips or in motifs on woven cotton	36.8
10		Stockings and socks, the following:	
	ex 60.03	Of knitted cotton, man-made fibres or wool	87.55
	ex 61.10	Of woven cotton	
11		Apparel, the following:	
	ex 60.04	a Under garments of knitted or crocheted cotton, man-made fibres or wool	906.4
	ex 60.05	Outer garments and other articles of apparel of knitted or crocheted cotton, man-made fibres, wool or fine animal hair	
	ex 61.01, ex 61.02	b Outer garments of woven man-made fibres or flax	1,266.9
	ex 61.03, ex 61.04	Under garments of woven flax	
	ex 61.06	Shawls and other articles falling within heading no. 61.06 of woven man-made fibres or flax	
	ex 61.07	Ties, bow-ties and cravats of woven flax	
	ex 61.01, ex 61.02, ex 61.03, ex 61.04	c Outer garments of woven cotton; Under garments of woven cotton (of which not more than 1,098,173m² for shirts)	2,761,037m²
	ex 61.05	Handkerchiefs of woven cotton	
	ex 61.06	Shawls and other articles falling within heading no. 61.06 of woven cotton	
	ex 61.07	Ties, bow-ties and cravats of woven cotton	
	ex 61.09	Corsets and other articles falling within heading no. 61.09 of woven cotton	
12		Woven fabrics of true hemp and made-up textile articles of cotton or of man-made fibres or of true hemp, hat forms, hat bodies, and hoods of felt (of which not more than £55,000 for goods of true hemp), the following:	
	ex 60.05, ex 62.02	a Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen, curtains and other furnishing articles of cotton	515,504m²
	ex 62.01	Travelling rugs and blankets (*other than electric blankets*) of woven cotton	
	ex 62.05	Other made-up textile articles of woven cotton, excluding those made up from narrow fabrics	
	57.09	b Woven fabrics of true hemp	
	ex 60.05	Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen, curtains and other furnishing articles of knitted man-made fibres	309
	ex 62.01	Travelling rugs and blankets (*other than electric blankets*) of woven man-made fibres	
	ex 62.02	Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen, curtains and other furnishing articles of woven man-made fibres or true hemp	
	ex 62.05	Other made-up textile articles of woven man-made fibres or true hemp, excluding those made up from narrow fabrics	
	ex 65.01	Hat forms, hat bodies and hoods of felt not exceeding £10,300	
13	ex 65.05	Knitted acrylic caps	3.1
14	ex 62.04	Woven cotton tents	149.480m²
15	ex 64.01, ex 64.02	Footwear wholly of rubber or with uppers mainly of rubber. Footwear with rubber soles and textile uppers	95
16	69.11, 69.12, 69.13	Domestic and ornamental china and earthenware (of which not more than £52,200 for ornamental ware)	226.5
17	ex 85.15	Transistorised radio and television broadcast receivers and radiograms	200
18	ex 85.21	Electronic valves and semi-conductors	515

Imports from Poland

Quotas for the import into the UK during the 12 months beginning 1 January 1977 of goods from Poland which remain subject to quantitative restriction are set out below:

No.	CCT heading no.	Description	Value £1,000 cif or quantity
1	ex 07.01	Fresh vegetables being:	
		a Tomatoes during the period 15 May to 31 October	50 tonnes
		b Green beans during the period 1 June to 30 September	10 tonnes
		c Lettuce and endive during the periods 1 January to 15 June and 15 November to 31 December	10 tonnes
2	ex 07.01	Potatoes: i New	PM*
		ii Other	PM*
3	ex 07.02	Frozen chipped potatoes	270 tonnes
4	ex 07.04	Dried cubed potatoes	755 tonnes
5	ex 20.02	Canned potatoes	270 tonnes
6	36.06	Matches (excluding Bengal matches)	100
7	ex 42.03	Leather gloves, including gloves of leather and furskin or of leather and artificial fur	20.6
8		Fabrics and made-up textile articles of man-made fibres, the following:	
	51.04, 56.07	a Woven fabrics of man-made fibres	1,676,000m²

No.	CCT heading no.	Description	Value £1,000 cif or quantity
	ex 60.01	b Knitted or crocheted fabrics of man-made fibres	
	ex 60.05, ex 62.02	Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen, curtains and other furnishing articles of man-made fibres	
	ex 62.01	Travelling rugs and blankets (*other than electric blankets*), of woven man-made fibres	1,118,000m²
	ex 62.05	Other made-up textile articles of woven man-made fibres, excluding those made up from narrow fabrics	
9		Fabrics and made-up textile articles of wool or fine animal hair, the following:	
	53.11	Woven fabrics of wool or fine animal hair	
	ex 62.01	Travelling rugs and blankets (*other than electric blankets*) of woven wool or fine animal hair	231.75†
	ex 62.05	Other made-up textile articles of woven wool or fine animal hair, excluding those made up from narrow fabrics	
10		Woven fabrics and made-up textile articles of flax, the following:	
	ex 54.05, ex 62.02	Tea towelling and tea towels of flax	86,000m²
	ex 54.05	Other woven fabrics of flax	
	ex 62.02	Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen (*other than* † *tea towels*), curtains and other furnishing articles of woven flax	53.6
	ex 62.05	Other made-up textile articles of woven flax, excluding those made up from narrow fabrics	
11		Fabrics and made-up textile articles of cotton, the following:	
	ex 62.02	a Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen, curtains and other furnishing articles of woven cotton	424,480m²
	ex 60.05	b Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen, and kitchen linen, curtains and other furnishing articles of knitted cotton	36,110m²
	55.07, 55.08, 55.09	c Woven fabrics of cotton	
	ex 62.01	Travelling rugs and blankets (*other than electric blankets*) of woven cotton	451,470m²
	ex 62.05	Other made-up textile articles of woven cotton excluding those made up from narrow fabrics	
12	ex 58.04	Plush fabrics of cotton, man-made fibres, wool or fine animal hair (of which not more than 73,700m² for fabrics made wholly or mainly of cotton)	559,000m²
13	ex 58.05, ex 59.13	Narrow fabrics of woven cotton or wool of non-elastic or non-rubberised knitted or woven man-made fibres	103
14		Handicraft textile table covers:	
	ex 58.10, ex 60.05, ex 62.02	Of woven cotton; Of cotton, man-made fibres or flax	20.6
15		Stockings and socks, the following:	
	ex 60.03	Of knitted cotton, man-made fibres or wool	103
	ex 61.10	Of woven cotton	
16		Apparel (of which not more than £77,229 for items wholly or mainly of woven cotton), the following:	
	ex 60.04	Under garments of knitted or crocheted cotton, man-made fibres or wool	
	ex 60.05	Outer garments and other articles of apparel of knitted or crocheted cotton, man-made fibres or wool or fine animal hair	
	ex 61.01, ex 61.02	Outer garments of woven man-made fibres, cotton or flax	2,438.55‡
	ex 61.03, ex 61.04	Under garments of woven cotton or flax	
	ex 61.06	Shawls and other articles falling within heading no. 61.06 of woven cotton, man-made fibres or flax	
	ex 61.07	Ties, bow-ties and cravats of woven cotton or flax	
	ex 61.09	Corsets and other articles falling within heading no. 61.09 of woven cotton	
17	ex 62.04	Woven cotton tents	10
18	ex 64.01, ex 64.02	Footwear wholly of rubber with uppers mainly of rubber, footwear with rubber soles and textile uppers	110
19	ex 65.01	Hat forms, hat bodies and hoods of felt	12.9
20	69.11, 69.12, 69.13	Domestic and ornamental china and earthenware (of which not more than £15,700 for ornamental ware)	383.5
21	ex 85.15	Transistorised radio and television broadcast receivers and radiograms (of which not more than £285,000 for radio receivers, television receivers with screens of under 18 in in size and radiograms) §	380
22	ex 85.21	Electronic valves and semi-conductors	335

* PM Pro Memoria.

† Of which not more than £154,500 may be used for either:
a fabrics of wool or fine animal hair (53.11), or alternatively
b made up textile articles of wool or fine animal hair (ex 62.01, ex 62.05).

‡ Of which not more than £2,193,900 may be used for either:
a knitted or crocheted garments, or alternatively
b woven garments.

§ The reference to screen size is to the diagonal measurement.

Imports from Romania

Quotas for the import into the UK of goods from Romania during the 12 months beginning 1 January 1977 for categories prefixed 'R' or 'F', and for the first quarter of 1977 for categories prefixed 'P', which remain remain subject to quantitative restriction are set out below:

Note: See also notice to importers 1589, published in *Trade and Industry* on 10 December 1976.

No.	CCT heading no.	Description	Value £1,000 cif or quantity
R.1	ex 07.01	Fresh tomatoes during the period 15 May to 31 October	1,980 tonnes
R.2	ex 07.02	Potatoes preserved by freezing	363 tonnes
R.3	ex 07.04	Dried potatoes	27.5
R.4	ex 20.02	Canned or bottled potatoes	340
R.5	36.06	Matches (excluding Bengal matches)	10
R.6		Gloves, the following:	
	ex 42.03	Leather gloves, including gloves of leather and furskin or of leather and artificial fur	56.5
	ex 43.03	Gloves of furskin	
R.17	69.11, 69.12, 69.13	Domestic and ornamental china, porcelain and earthenware	302
R.18	ex 85.15	Transistorised radio and television broadcast receivers and radiograms	250
R.19	ex 85.15	Transistorised 12 in monochrome television broadcast receivers *	720
R.20	ex 85.21	Electronic valves, and semi-conductors	110
F.1	ex 61.01, ex 61.02	Outer garments, wholly or mainly of flax, of ramie or of hemp	
F.2	ex 61.03, ex 61.04	Under garments wholly or mainly of flax, of ramie or of hemp	
F.3	ex 61.05	Handkerchiefs wholly or mainly of flax, of ramie or of hemp	
F.4	ex 61.06	Shawls, scarves, mufflers, mantillas, veils and the like, wholly or mainly of flax, of ramie or of hemp	45
F.5	ex 61.07	Ties, bow ties and cravats, wholly or mainly of flax, of ramie or of hemp	
F.6	ex 62.02	Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen, kitchen linen, curtains and other furnishing articles, wholly or mainly of ramie or of hemp	
P.1	ex 60.01	Knitted or crocheted fabric, not elastic nor rubberised, wholly or mainly of man-made fibres, *other than fabric resembling lace*	
P.2	ex 61.06	Shawls, scarves, mufflers, mantillas, veils and the like, wholly or mainly of woven cotton or man-made fibres	
P.3	ex 62.01	Travelling rugs and blankets, *other than electric blankets*, wholly or mainly of man-made fibres, of wool or of fine animal hair	40,000 sq yd
P.4	ex 62.05	Other textile articles (including dress patterns) made up from fabrics exceeding 30cm in width, of cotton, of man-made fibres or of wool	

* The reference to screen size is to the diagonal measurement.

Imports from the USSR

Quotas for the import into the UK during the 12 months beginning 1 January 1977 of goods from the USSR which remain subject to quantitative restriction are set out below:

No.	CCT heading no.	Description	Value £1,000 cif or quantity
1	36.06	Matches (other than Bengal matches)	428,800 short standards
2	55.07, 55.08, 55.09	Woven fabrics of cotton	1,449,956m²*
3		Apparel, the following:	
	ex 60.04	Under garments of knitted or crocheted cotton man-made fibres or wool	
	ex 60.05	Outer garments and other articles of apparel of knitted or crocheted cotton, man-made fibres, wool or fine animal hair	72.1
	ex 61.01, ex 61.02	Outer garments of woven cotton, man-made fibres or flax	
	ex 61.03, ex 61.04	Under garments of woven cotton or flax	
4	ex 60.05	Bed linen of knitted or crocheted cotton or man-made fibres	30.9
	ex 62.02	Bed linen of woven cotton, man-made fibres or flax	

No.	CCT heading no.	Description	Value £1,000 cif or quantity
5	69.11 69.12 69.13	Domestic and ornamental china and earthenware	95.5
6	ex 85.15	Transistorised radio broadcast receivers	470 (†)
7	ex 85.15	Transistorised radiograms	280
8	ex 85.15	Transistorised monochrome television broadcast receivers of 6 in and 9 in§	375
9	ex 85.21	Electronic valves and semi-conductors	265

* The Department of Trade is prepared to issue licences outside the above arrangements for the import into the United Kingdom of grey cotton cloth for processing and re-export.

† Quota No. 6 includes provision for import into the United Kingdom of unit transistorised radio tuners whether or not combined with amplifiers. Other parts of unit audio equipment are not subject to quantity limitations when imported into the United Kingdom.

‡ Radiograms and parts thereof which are not equipped with transistors (including free-standing speakers) are not subject to quantity limitation when imported into the United Kingdom.

§ The reference to screen size is to the diagonal measurement.

Debriefing on London chamber's South Korean mission

Following an industrial and trade mission to Korea from 10 to 22 October this year sponsored by the London Chamber, of Commerce and Industry the chamber is holding a debriefing and report meeting for the mission on 14 January 1977 when members will answer questions from the floor. A buffet lunch will follow at which further informal discussion can take place.

The meeting is open to all who may be interested in first-hand accounts of the many opportunities in this rapidly growing but largely unknown market. The charge for lunch for non-members is £8 plus 65p VAT. Details are available from Miss Sally Williamson, Asia and Pacific Section, International Division, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 69 Cannon Street, London EC4N 5AB, tel. 01-248 4444.

Norwegian oil mission impressed with UK firms

On returning to Norway, members of a 12-man offshore oil supplies mission reported that they were very pleased with their recent week-long visit to the UK.

Sponsored by the British Overseas Trade Board this first mission of its kind from Norway was particularly impressed with the capability of UK firms to supply offshore oil control systems and ancillary equipment. The visitors said they were also impressed with the high level of technical competence they had seen, and added that their visits to manufacturing plants and talks with offshore oil systems suppliers had created confidence which would be of invaluable importance when decisions have to be taken about possible suppliers to the Norwegian offshore oil supplies industry.

They were pleased to find that the smaller companies they visited showed enterprise as well as competence.

Coventry mission to United States

As part of the ever increasing programme of overseas missions organised by the Coventry Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a top-level delegation of Midlands industrialists is expected to leave London on 8 May 1977 for the United States. The cut-off date for applications is 4 January 1977.

The mission will be of particular interest to machine tool manufacturers as the dates of the tour have been carefully selected to coincide with the Society of Manufacturing Engineers' exhibition being held in Detroit.

The mission has been arranged on a 'scatter' basis which allows flexibility of itinerary, after an initial stay in Detroit. The mission will officially end on 21 May.

Further details can be obtained from Ian Moulson, Coventry Chamber of Commerce and Industry, St Nicholas Street, Coventry CV1 4FD, tel. Coventry 51777.

Arrangements for licensing exports of non-alloy ferrous scrap to countries outside the EEC

Existing arrangements for the issue of licences for the export of non-alloy ferrous scrap to countries outside the European community are to be continued for the first quarter of 1977 beginning 1 January. The quota for the first quarter has not yet been finalised but will be notified to the trade as soon as possible.

There are three main features of the arrangements. First, actual export performance in all overseas markets during a base period provides the basis for allocation of tonnages which individual exporters may expect to be licensed for the whole of the quarter. Second, there will be a qualifying minimum export performance. For the first quarter of 1977 the base period will be the 12 months ended 30 September 1976 and the minimum qualifying tonnage will be 3,000 tonnes. Export performance below this tonnage during the base period will be insufficient to qualify an exporter for consideration for a licence for the first quarter of 1977. Third, in order to qualify for licences applicants will need to provide documentary evidence of firm orders.

Preference will continue to be given to established exporters. Licences will normally be valid for two months and will be granted so as to spread exports as evenly as possible over the quarter. They will be granted only to qualified exporters on evidence of firm export orders from buyers in non-community countries to which the export is to be made.

For the quarter beginning 1 January 1977 export licences will as before be available for the following types of non-alloy ferrous scrap:

1 compressed baled material, other than compressed unused sheet and sheet cuttings;
2 loose used wrought material containing 90 per cent or more, by weight, of a material of a thickness not exceeding 3mm;
3 turnings and borings.

In addition, for this quarter licences will be available to individual traders for fragmentised scrap to the extent only of a maximum of 15 per cent of each such trader's allocation.

Traders whose exports to all destinations against their own orders in the base period totalled 3,000 tonnes or more and who wish to be considered for an allocation under the quota for the period commencing 1 January are now invited to submit not later than 11 January particulars of the total tonnage of exports of non-alloy ferrous scrap in each month of the base period of 12 months ended 30 September 1976 in the following form:

	To community countries	To other countries
a Exports against own orders		
b Exports against orders obtained by others		

In this information has already been supplied in respect of any period from 1 October, 1975 it will suffice merely to provide information relating to other months.

This information should be forwarded to the Department of Industry, Iron and Steel Division, Thames House South (Room 724), Millbank, London SW1P 4QJ. Although all the information supplied will be considered carefully, it should not be assumed that all exporters will necessarily be allocated a share of the quota.

When this information has been received and the amount of the quota is known individual allocations in respect of the whole of the quarter beginning 1 January will be determined. Applicants will be informed whether or not they have been granted an allocation but export licences will not be issued until they have submitted to the Department of Trade, Export Licensing Branch supporting documentary evidence (in English) of firm orders to sell to a buyer in a non-community country (subject to availability of UK export licence) stipulated tonnages of any one or more of the specified types of ferrous scrap in any stipulated period commencing not earlier than 1 January 1977. Telex messages giving full details will be accepted but must be followed within not more than two weeks thereafter by the written confirmation of the overseas buyer.

Licences, which will be valid for a period of not more than two months, will then be issued as appropriate against allocations. Further evidence of firm orders supplied by an applicant after the initial submission of such information will be taken into account until the allocation is exhausted. The validity of a licence will not normally be extended.

Continuation of the present relaxation of controls will depend on adequate supplies of ferrous scrap being maintained to UK users.

Trade inquiries should be addressed to the Department of Trade, Export Licensing Branch, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB.

Overseas trade country data

Australia

Further information: tariff items affected by changes in policy resulting from devaluation. The Australian Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs made a further statement on 7 December concerning the reductions in import duty already forecast. The reductions include the government's decision to act on the Industries Assistance Commission's report for the multilateral trade negotiations.

Because of the wide range of tariff items covered, all the changes may not be completed until 31 January 1977. In the meantime, for the information of UK importers, the changes are grouped under the following headings:

Schedule 1. These are the items on which the general tariff rate will be reduced to the level of the preferential rate. They comprise the bulk of the reductions: some 600 items.
Schedule 2. These are approximately 85 items on which the general rate will be reduced by varying percentages.
Schedule 3. These are the items of greatest interest to UK exporters. They comprise approximately 91 low-tariff items on which the general and preferential rates (including primage) will be eliminated.

If UK exporters will state the tariff item(s) which are of interest, OTAR will give information on whether they are mentioned, and if so, the schedule in which they appear.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 468/469/401.

Draft report on certain internal combustion piston engines and parts therefor. The Industries Assistance Commission has released a draft of its report on certain internal combustion piston engines and parts therefor, in order that interested parties may have an opportunity to examine and comment upon it within the commission's public inquiry system before the report is finally settled.

In order to receive submissions on the report, the commission will hold a further public hearing at the Public Inquiry Room, Industries Assistance Commission, Kings Avenue, Canberra, Australia, commencing at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 8 February 1977.

A copy of the draft report may be obtained on loan from Room 336, Department of Trade, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref. CRE 7/74

Plywood and veneer, locations and times of the public hearings. A notice in *Trade and Industry* of 3 September 1976, reported a reference to the Industries Assistance Commission on the question whether the importation of plywood should be subject to tariff quotas after 30 June 1977.

The Industries Assistance Commission will hold the public hearings for its inquiry at the following places and times:

Queensland Room, Ground Floor, Executive Building, 100 George Street, Brisbane, Qld. beginning 9.30 a.m. Monday, 24 January 1977; Public Inquiry Room, Industries Assistance Commission, 16th Floor, Sydney Plaza Building, 59 Goulburn Street, Sydney, NSW. beginning 9.30 a.m. Thursday, 27 January 1977; Public Inquiry Room, Industries Assistance Commission, 6th Floor, 200 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, Vic. beginning 9.30 a.m. Wednesday, 2 February 1977.

Statements of evidence should be submitted as soon as possible, addressed to the Secretary, Industries Assistance Commission, PO Box 80, Canberra, ACT 2600 Australia.

Inquiries: 01-215 5319. Ref. CRE 1532/76.

CRE tel. Direct dialling **OTAR** telephone 01-248 5757
Extensions to OTAR numbers are given at the end of each notice

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Division, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension.

Brazil

Reference price on hard metal tips. Customs Policy Council resolution 2866, published in the *Diario Oficial of* 18 November 1976, established a reference price for hard metal tool tips, of tariff heading 82.07.99.00, of US$ 1.14 each cif.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Duty exemption on camphene. Customs Policy Council resolution 2860, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 10 November 1976, exempted camphene, of tariff heading 29.01.24.00, from import duty for a period of one year, where the camphene is intended for the production of agricultural chemicals. The concession came into force on the date of publication.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Revocation of reference price on unwelded metal carbide tips. Customs Policy Council resolution 2869, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 18 November 1976, revoked the reference price on unwelded metal carbide tips, of tariff heading 84.48.01.01.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Reference prices. The following reference prices have been established by Customs Policy Council resolutions:

CCCN no.	Description	Reference price
	Screwing, tapping and sanding machines:	
85.05.01.99	Single shaft screwing machines	US$ 200 each cif
	Twin shaft screwing machines	US$ 230 each cif
	Tapping machines	US$ 220 each cif
	Angular sanding machines	US$ 240 each cif
	Electric drills for manual use:	
85.05.01.03	Up to 10mm inclusive	US$ 90 each cif
	10 to 13mm inclusive	US$ 110 each cif
	Electronically controlled drills	US$ 160 each cif
	Two speed drills	US$ 210 each cif
	Impact drills	US$ 270 each cif
	Radial cutters:	
82.05.07.99	Up to 6.5mm inclusive	US$ 1.80 each cif
	6.5 to 13mm	US$ 2.20 each cif
	13 to 20mm	US$ 3.60 each cif
	20 to 32mm	US$ 7.60 each cif
	32 to 52mm	US$ 17.00 each cif
	Drills and bits:	
82.05.13.00	Up to 13mm inclusive	US$ 2.40 each cif
	13 to 26mm inclusive	US$ 5.20 each cif
	26 to 40mm inclusive	US$ 9.90 each cif
	Over 40mm	US$ 16.00 each cif
	Centre bits:	
82.05.04.00	Up to 2mm inclusive	US$ 0.60 each cif
	2 to 4mm	US$ 1.00 each cif
	Over 4mm	US$ 2.00 each cif

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Chile

Elimination of period for payment of 'CAD' imports. The Chilean Central Bank has stated that the period (after payment in local currency by the importer at the intervening Chilean commercial bank) at which the foreign exchange is released by the Central Bank for remittance to the foreign supplier in payment for 'CAD' ('cobranza') shipments has been reduced from 30 to 0 days.

The rule that remittance will not be approved by the Central Bank until the goods have been cleared through Chilean customs still remains valid but the introduction of the above measure should reduce the remittance period (depending on promptness in customs' despatching).

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Ecuador

Motor vehicle prohibition repealed. The ban on the import of motor vehicles has been lifted. New regulations state that before the Central Bank grants an import licence prior authority from the Ecuadorean Ministry of Trade and Industry is now required.

A prior deposit of 50 per cent of the cif value and an import surcharge of 30 per cent on the same have to be paid in advance of the issue of the import licence.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Finland

Levy on imported panty hose. It is reported that the Finnish authorities have informed both EEC and Efta that they are taking action under articles 26 and 27 of Finland's agreement with the EEC, to impose from 1 January 1977, in appropriate instances, a levy on imported tights.

The levy will be the equivalent of any difference between the actual import price and the minimum import price of FMk 1.60, as declared by the Finnish authorities some time ago.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

France

Hot water meters. A decree concerning the manufacture, type approval, control and use of hot water meters was published in the French *Official Journal* of 26 November. Most of the provisions of this decree will be applied from 1 January 1978.

Copies of the French text can be obtained from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 423.

Veterinary products and animal feeding stuffs. A law published in the French *Official Journal* of 28 November prohibits the use of substances having an oestrogen action in veterinary products administered to animals whose flesh or produce is destined to human consumption, except when used to control the oestrous cycle in female animals.

Copies of the French text can be obtained from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 423.

Israel

Duty exemption on pollution control equipment. Imports of pollution control equipment may be exempt from import duty and purchase tax, provided the equipment is approved by the Environmental Protection Service at the Ministry of Interior as being imported for the specific purpose of controlling pollution.

No further information is available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Jamaica

High commission moves. The commercial section of the British high commission in Kingston, Jamaica is now located at Trafalgar Road, PO Box 338, Kingston 10, Jamaica. The new telephone number is 926 9050.

New Zealand

Import deposit scheme and import licensing. On 9 December, Mr Muldoon, the New Zealand Prime Minister announced a mild credit squeeze which includes a six month extension of the import deposit scheme to 2 August 1977. A notice outlining the scheme which was introduced on 2 February 1976, was published in *Trade and Industry* on 6 February 1976. Commenting on imports generally he said that the 1977/78 import licensing schedule would be similar to the present one, ie there would be no extension of import licensing.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5321. Ref. CRE 47099

Customs tariff amendments. The New Zealand government has issued the Customs Tariff (Rubber Products) Amendment Order 1976 which came into force on the 26 November whereby tariff items:

40.05.009, 40.06.001, 40.06.002, 40.06.009, 40.06.012, 40.06.019, 40.07.009, 40.08.003, 40.08.009, 50.08.011, 40.08.012, 40.08.013, 40.08.019, 40.09.001, 40.09.008, 40.09.009, 40.11.001, 40.11.002, 40.11.009, 40.11.011, 40.11.019, 40.11.021, 40.11.029, 40.11.039, 40.11.041, 40.11.051, 40.11.059

are revoked and replaced by the following:

Number	Description	Unit	Rates of duty effective on and after 1 July: Year	Normal tariff	British preferential	Other preferential rates of duty
	UNVULCANISED RUBBER					
40.05	Plates, sheets and strip, of unvulcanised natural or synthetic rubber, other than smoked sheets and crepe sheets of heading no. 40.01 or 40.02, granules of unvulcanised natural or synthetic rubber compounded ready for vulcanisation; unvulcanised natural or synthetic rubber, compounded before or after coagulation either with carbon black (with or without the addition of mineral oil) or with silica (with or without the addition of mineral oil), in any form, of a kind known as masterbatch:					
	Compounded:					
40.05.011	Masterbatch mixtures	kg	1976	5%	5%	Aul Free Can Free CPC Free DC Free
40.05.019	Other	kg	1976 1977	17½% 17½%	14½% 17½%	Aul Free Can 10% CPC 10% DC Free
40.06	Unvulcanised natural or synthetic rubber, including rubber latex, in other forms or states (for example, rods, tubes and profile shapes, solutions and dispersions); articles of unvulcanised natural or synthetic rubber (for example, coated or impregnated textile thread; rings and discs):					
	Tubes:					
40.06.001	As may be approved by the Minister and under such conditions as he may prescribe	m	1976	Free*	Free*	
40.06.002	Other	m	1976 1977	41% or† 35% or†	31% or† 35% or†	Aul 25% or† Can 25% or† CPC 25% or† DC 25% or†

* Or such higher rate of duty as the Minister may in any case decide.

Number	Description	Unit	Rates of duty effective on and after 1 July: Year	Normal tariff	British preferential	Other preferential rates of duty
40.06.009	per 100m	m	1976	$5.45 plus 16%	$5.45 plus 6%	Aul $5.45 per 100m Can $5.45 per 100m
	per 100m		1977	$5.45 plus 10%	$5.45 plus 10%	CPC $5.45 per 100m DC $5.45 per 100m
40.06.012	Rings and discs	..	1976	34%	26%	Aul 20%
			1977	30%	30%	Can 20% CPC 20% DC 20%
40.06.013	Thread	..	1976	5%	5%	Aul Free Can Free CPC Free DC Free
40.06.018	Other		1976	24%	16%	Aul 10%
			1977	20%	20%	Can 12½% CPC 12½% DC 10%
ARTICLES OF UNHARDENED VULCANISED RUBBER						
40.07	Vulcanised rubber thread and cord, whether or not textile covered, and textile thread covered or impregnated with vulcanised rubber:					
40.07.009	Other	..	1976	25%	25%	Aul 15% Can 15% CPC 15% DC 15%
40.08	Plates, sheets, strip, rods and profile shapes, of unhardened vulcanised rubber:					
40.08.008	Tyring	kg	1976	5%	5%	Aul Free Can Free CPC Free DC Free
	Other kinds: Wholly of rubber:					
40.08.011	Of expanded, foam or sponge rubber	..	1976	40%	40%	Aul 30% Can 32½% CPC 32½% DC 30%
40.08.014	Extruded profiles	..	1976	45%	45%	Aul 35% Can 37½% CPC 37½% DC 35%
40.08.017	Other	..	1976	40%	40%	Aul 30% Can 32½% CPC 32½% DC 30%
	Principally of rubber:					
40.08.021	Of expanded foam or sponge rubber	..	1976	40%	40%	Aul 30% Can 30% CPC 30% DC 30%
40.08.029	Other	..	1976	40%	40%	Aul 30% Can 30% CPC 30% DC 30%
40.09	Piping and tubing, of unhardened vulcanised rubber:					
	Piping, tubing, hose and hoses reinforced with wire or wire braid, textile and similar strengthening materials, with or without fittings attached:					
40.09.011	As may be approved by the Minister and under such conditions as he may prescribe	m	1976	Free*	Free*	
40.09.019	Other	m	1976	45%	45%	Aul 35% Can 35% CPC 35% DC 35%
	Other:					
40.09.021	As may be approved by the Minister and under such conditions as he may prescribe	m	1976	Free*	Free*	
40.09.029	Other	m	1976	45%	45%	Aul 35% Can 35% CPC 35% DC 35%
40.11	Rubber tyres, tyre cases, interchangeable tyre treads, inner tubes and tyre flaps, for wheels of all kinds:					
	Pneumatic tyres, tyre cases and inner tubes:					
40.11.003	As may be approved by the Minister and under such conditions as he may prescribe	kg	1976	10%	10%	Aul Free Can Free CPC Free DC Free
40.11.008	Other	kg	1976	40%	40%	Aul 20% Can 20% CPC 20% DC 20%
40.11.018	Non-pneumatic tyres	kg	1976	40%	40%	Aul 20% Can 20% CPC 20% DC 20%
40.11.028	Interchangeable tyre treads	kg	1976	5%	5%	Aul Free Can Free CPC Free DC Free
40.11.038	Tyre flaps	kg	1976	5%	5%	Aul Free Can Free CPC Free DC Free

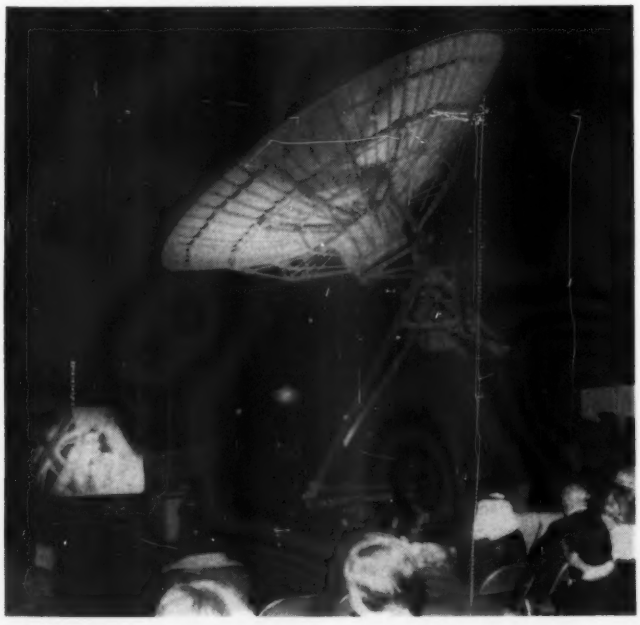
* Or such higher rate of duty as the Minister may in any case decide.
† Where alternative rates are shown the rate chargeable is that which returns the higher duty.

* Or such higher rate of duty as the Minister may in any case decide.
Aul, Australia; Can, Canada; CPC, Commonwealth preference countries; DC, Developing countries.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 401/468/469.

UK tv opens YAR earth stations

The Yemen Arab Republic's new satellite earth station stood illuminated against the night sky as guests at the opening ceremony watched television programmes being transmitted live for the first time from the UK. The new earth station, installed by Cable and Wireless Ltd, is capable of handling all forms of telecommunication traffic and will completely satisfy the country's demands for the foreseeable future.



Norway

Temporary provisions on the price calculation of goods for which payment is made in pounds sterling. The Norwegian Price Directorate recently announced that it had become concerned that certain Norwegian importers of goods paid for in sterling were taking advantage of falling sterling exchange rates to make unreasonable profits. Warnings were duly issued that this practice must cease.

Regulations have therefore been published which stipulate that when prices go down – as in the case of a difference in the sterling exchange rate – importers are obliged to pass on the difference to the customer. The measure is aimed at importers in Norway, not at foreign exporters.

Copies of an English translation of the regulations are available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

CRE tel. Direct dialling **OTAR** telephone 01-248 5757
Extensions to **OTAR** numbers are given at the end of each notice

Portugal

Import surcharge and deposit: further information. Portuguese *Diario da Republica* 280, first supplement, of 30 November, published decree-law 836-A/76 which amends the import surcharge and deposit schemes as follows:

1 Tariff heading 37.07 is removed from the 60 per cent surcharge list and the import deposit list.
2 Separate materials and parts classified under tariff headings which also include finished products, included in the list of goods subject to the import deposit, will be exempt from the deposit when imported by industry for use solely in their own production processes.

These amendments are effective retrospectively from 14 October 1976.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Bills of exchange. The Bank of Portugal have announced new regulations covering the acceptance of bills of exchange; with effect from 15 December Portuguese banks will no longer accept sight drafts drawn by suppliers on their overseas customers. Tenor bills only may be used from that date.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5341.

South Africa

Tariff application. Customs Tariff Application List No. 40/76, published in the South African *Government Gazette* of 10 December contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on:

1 Woven and printed woven fabrics of man-made fibres and/or cotton classifiable under tariff headings 51.04, 55.09, 56.07; fabrics of sheep's or lamb's wool or fine animal hair classifiable under tariff subheadings 53.11.10.40 and 53.11.10.50; and woven fabrics of flax classifiable under tariff subheading 54.05.10.
2 Tennis and squash racquets and frames classifiable under tariff subheadings 97.06.40 and 97.06.90 respectively.
3 Fiction comics classifiable under tariff subheading 49.01.20.
4 Milk and cream cans, buckets and pails of iron, steel or aluminium classifiable under tariff subheadings 73.23.10, 73.23.90 and 76.10.90 respectively.
5 Milk substitutes of a kind used for animal feeding classifiable under tariff subheadings 23.07.20, 23.07.90, 21.07.90.

Those British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the application, it should address inquiries to CRE tel. 01-215 5274.

Patents, trademarks and designs. The following has been received from the South African Institute of Patent Agents:

It has already been reported that the Transkei, which forms an integral part of the Republic of South Africa will, on the 26 October 1976, become a sovereign and independent state. The present legislation in the Republic of South Africa relating to patents, trademarks and designs will be adopted in the Republic of Transkei. In addition thereto appropriate proclamations are expected to be issued in order to provide for transitional requirements and administrative difficulties. Pending such proclamation the Registrar General of the Transkei has indicated that the following administrative procedures will be adopted:

1 New applications for patent, trademark and design registrations will be accepted in the Transkei as from 26 October 1976.
2 Patent, trademark and design rights existing in South Africa as at 26 October 1976 will be effective in the Transkei until they fall due for renewal.
3 All patents, trademarks and designs which have been renewed in South Africa prior to 26 October 1976 will remain effective in the Transkei until they again fall due for renewal – at that stage renewal fees must be paid in the Transkei. Any patents, trademarks and designs not renewed in South Africa prior to 26 October 1976 must be renewed separately in both South Africa and Transkei if protection is required in both these territories.
4 Applications which are pending in South Africa on 26 October 1976 and which eventually proceed to grant or registration will be effective in the Transkei without further prosecution there.

If additional information is required please contact a practitioner in South Africa.

At the time of publication Her Majesty's Government has not recognised the Transkei as an independent sovereign state.

South Korea

Five-year plan. The fourth, five year development plan is due to begin in 1977. A paper, consisting of notes by the commercial staff of the British embassy on an unpublished draft of the plan prepared by the Korean Economic Planning Board, is available free of charge. The notes highlight and summarise the most favourable areas for British industry and exporters. Copies are available from CRE 01-215 5642.

United States

Tax Reform Act of 1976. This Act became law on 4 October 1976. Some of its main provisions include:

Business related individual income tax provisions (eg deductions for attending foreign conventions)
Capital formation (eg investment credit in the case of movie and television films)
Amendments affecting tax treatment of controlled foreign corporations and their shareholders
Amendments affecting treatment of foreign taxes
Money or other property moving into or out of the United States
Denial of certain tax benefits for co-operation with or participation in international boycotts and in connection with the payment of certain bribes
Amendments affecting DISC

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5629.

Venezuela

Temporary duty reductions and exemptions on motor vehicles suspended. Two official notices of the Ministerio de Hacienda published in the local newspapers on 27 November 1976 have confirmed that the temporary duty reductions and exemptions granted to various types of motor vehicles have an expiry date of 31 December 1976.

As of that date, imports of these specific products will be subject to the following duty rates:

CCCN no.	Description	Rates
87.01.01.00	Road tractors	40%
87.02.01.99.02	Rustic vehicles (of same mark and model as domestic production)	50%
87.02.02.99.02	Autobuses with more than 11 seats	75%
87.02.04.99.03	Lorries and vans, up to 4,000kg weight	60%
87.02.04.99.04	Lorries and vans, of more than 4,000kg weight	40%

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Zaire

Censorship of music. A commission for the censorship of songs has been set up in Zaire which could possibly affect the import of records, tapes and music – under CCCN numbers 49.04 and 92.12 – into that country.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 472/471/473/462.

Export pictures

Each week *Trade and Industry* publishes pictures illustrating Britain's export business. Companies with export successes are invited to send in the story, with a photograph showing the goods in manufacture, ready for despatch, or, preferably, on arrival overseas. The story must, of course, reach us while it is still news. Send your news and photographs to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Overseas trade exhibitions

In spite of difficulties, satisfaction at Iranmed

From C. V. Anson, British embassy, Tehran

A small specialised exhibition of medical equipment was held in Tehran from 24 to 30 November. Forty-seven British firms exhibited in a joint venture with the British Health Care Export Council. The fair was opened by the Prime Minister of Iran, Amir Abbas Hoveyda, who was accompanied on his tour of the British pavilion after the opening by the Ministers of Health, Commerce and Industry and Mines.

Firm orders taken by the 47 British companies amounted to £473,500 and potential orders over the next 12 months, to £2,623,000.

The Iranmed exhibition suffered slightly from following so closely on the heels of a very much larger international trade fair which ended a little over three weeks before the opening of Iranmed. It was also unfortunate that the equipment of 12 of the British exhibitors at Iranmed did not arrive in time for the opening of the exhibition. Nevertheless, most of the firms who took part in this exhibition were reasonably satisfied with the results. Many of them felt that participation had generated some useful business inquiries and had brought them into closer contact with their agents.

Of all the firms exhibiting, 20 said that they would return to a similar exhibition if one was held in the next two years.

UK firms plan a return to Sweden's Scanautomatic

From Kurt Lundin, British consulate-general, Gothenburg

Nine British exhibitors made up one of the most attractive stands at 'Scanautomatic' 76, the fourth international fair at Gothenburg from 24 to 28 November covering hydraulics, pneumatics, transmission equipment and control technology. The British stand was the only national joint venture at the fair among 134 main exhibitors representing 603 companies from 17 different countries.

The British display was a joint venture between the British Overseas Trade Board and the Association of Hydraulic Equipment Manufacturers Ltd (Ahem) London.

The fair was visited by approximately 10,000 trade visitors and, as for its predecessors, there were concurrent conferences and seminars arranged primarily for production and design staff. British exhibitors got a very large number of serious inquiries with good prospects of firm orders.

The good result is perhaps best reflected by the fact that all the British participants in this joint venture are already seriously considering a return to Scanautomatic in 1978. Three other British exhibitors approached Ahem during the fair with a view to joining a joint venture if held in 1978. In addition Moog Ltd is setting up a sales office in Gothenburg since the firm believes that sales on the Swedish market now warrant a local presence.

If the rate of industrial expansion in Sweden is to continue at a satisfactory high level, while at the same time the numbers employed in industry fall, it will be absolutely essential to invest increasingly in automation: Professor Bertil Colding estimates that an investment of Skr 1,700 million will be needed by 1980. British industry showed during the fair that they stood up very well to the high demands of the Swedish market and can hope to achieve a good proportion of the business at stake in this field.

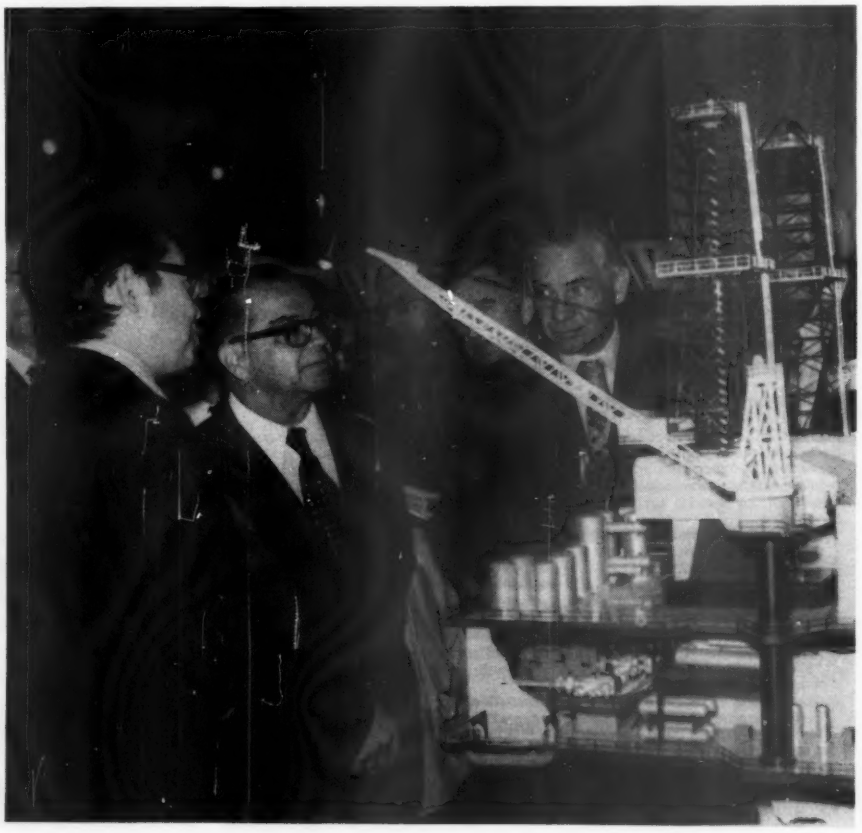
Britain holds oil conference in Brazil

From the British consulate-general, Rio de Janeiro

Brazil was the venue for a British offshore and marine equipment exhibition and conference from 22 to 24 November. Over 60 British firms took part in either the exhibition or conference. There were also two associated outward missions to Brazil, under the sponsorship of the British Marine Equipment Council, the Offshore Supplies Office of the Department of Energy, and the Dundee and Tayside Chamber of Commerce.

There was a high level of attendance from Petrobrás, the Brazilian state oil corporation, and from the Brazilian shipbuilding and metal engineering industries.

Brazil not only has one of the largest merchant shipbuilding programmes in the world today, but is also on the threshold of a major involvement in offshore oil exploration and development, in which British North Sea experience can play a valuable part.



The Brazilian Minister of Mines and Energy, Dr Shigeaki Ueki (left) and the governor of Rio de Janeiro, Admiral Faria Lima (a former President of Petrobrás), examining a model of topside platform work done for the Beryl field by the William Press Group.

JAPAN

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EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES await enterprising British manufacturers in the form of joint venture operations, wholly owned subsidiaries, branch sales operations and technological licence agreements in Japan. But in order to ensure that the best possible advantage is taken of such opportunities, it is absolutely essential to appoint a local representative possessing the necessary expertise and connections to act on your behalf. As Advisers and Consultants with years of experience of partner hunting and negotiations with Japanese manufacturers in the above sectors, we are pleased to offer our specialised services, which also include market research.

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ENCIRCLE TI 330 ON PAGE 903 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Safety on Small Craft

Specially written for the Department of Trade and Industry by Guy Cole, an experienced yachtsman, this important publication gives authoritative advice on safety matters and is designed to encourage and help the occasional 'week-end' sailor to acquire an understanding of what is involved in the recreation of his choice. It will also have an interest for all concerned in sailing or who participate in water sports involving boats.

As well as explaining life-saving appliances and other equipment, it deals with facilities for learning boat handling techniques and skills, maintenance, navigation, Collision Regulations, weather and tide, and the search and rescue operation.

The book has many illustrations by David Cobb, the well known marine artist, and includes photographs.

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ENCIRCLE TI 329 ON PAGE 903 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series are seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
			Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Distributive and service industries excl. shipping	Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Wholesalers	of which: Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index Series in Stock level at end-1975	1970	£ million	£ million			£ million				£ million		
						18,209	10,399	1,807	1,976			
1970	100	31,644	9,453	2,130	1,799	442	325	68	−14	733	−25	758
1971	102	32,505	9,681	1,991	1,930	99	−148	52	22	1,084	280	804
1972	104	34,402	9,870	1,739	2,071	39	−145	48	15	154	−702	856
1973	110	35,935	10,279	1,872	2,362	1,127	404	102	382	−736	−2,334	1,598
1974	110	35,612	10,087	2,024	2,251	604	666	81	−111	−3,347	−5,220	1,873
1975	108	35,374	9,967	1,737	1,964	−699	−392	−111	−23	−1,673	−3,204	1,531
1973 4th qtr	110	8,986	2,584	467	615	197	91	32	47	−395	−949	554
1974 1st qtr	106	8,853	2,594	510	591	−105	−21	18	−38	−822	−1,288	466
2nd qtr.	111	8,814	2,436	502	562	321	197	43	19	−858	−1,355	497
3rd qtr.	112	8,956	2,476	501	548	330	358	3	−39	−763	−1,242	479
4th qtr.	111	8,989	2,581	511	550	58	133	17	−53	−904	−1,335	431
1975 1st qtr.	110	8,989	2,533	471	497	−126	18	−31	−38	−452	−852	400
2nd qtr.	108	8,851	2,460	444	495	−269	−105	−54	−66	−366	−681	315
3rd qtr.	107	8,776	2,528	416	496	−214	−234	−29	38	−561	−989	428
4th qtr.	108	8,758	2,446	406	476	−90	−70	4	43	−294	−682	388
1976 1st qtr.	109	8,866	2,448	402	460	22	31	23	12	−39	−473	434
2nd qtr.	108	8,789	2,375	408	474	−161	−115	−22	−55	−553	−1,040	487
3rd qtr.		8,850 pe		418 p	472 p		17 p	−6 p	22 p	−734	−1,214	480
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	+1.3	+0.1	−3.0	+2.2	+1.1							
on a year earlier	−0.1	+0.1	−3.4	−4.0	−4.5							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs (NOT seasonally adjusted)					Labour (UK)			Visible Trade (Volume)	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices	% increase on a year earlier	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales	Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: mid-month count	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: % of total employees	Unfilled vacancies for adults: mid-month count	Export	Import
	at 1970 prices		at 1971 prices	monthly averages									On a balance of payments basis at 1970 prices	
Base of index £m in base year Series in	1970	1970	1971 15,895	thousands	Jan. 1974		1970	1970	July 1972	thousands		thousands	1970 7,907	1970 7,932
1971	100.5	99.7	100.0	108.5	153.4†	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	775.8	3.4	130.9	106.7	104.2
1972	102.7	102.4	105.8	138.6	164.3†	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	854.9	3.7	147.3	106.6	116.3
1973	110.3	110.0	110.7	137.1	179.4†	9.2	144.5	123.2	115.6	611.0	2.6	307.0	121.8	133.9
1974	106.4	108.2	109.9	102 8	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	138.7	599.5ø	2.6ø	302.2ø	130.1	135.2
1975	101.2	101.7	107.9	97.2	134.8	24.2	235.4	188.7	179.8	929.0	3.9	148.2ø	124.9	125.6
1974 3rd qtr.	108.2	109.9	111.2	107	110.2	17.0	212.9	156.1	144.0	613.7	2.6	308.7	133.4	136.4
4th qtr.	104.9	106.0	111.3	97	115.1	18.2	222.1	164.9	153.5	..	..	..	126.5	133.0
1975 1st qtr.	104.7	106.1	111.3	108	122.0	20.3	220.9	176.0	163.6	737.8	3.1	..	128.9	125.4
2nd qtr.	100.3	100.5	108.9	94	133.6	24.3	225.6	186.3	176.3	847.4	3.6	164.4	122.6	122.2
3rd qtr.	99.6	99.7	105.5	103	139.4	26.6	239.3	193.4	185.5	1,000.0	4.2	133.6	120.0	127.4
4th qtr.	100.4	100.4	105.8	84	144.2	25.3	256.1	199.1	193.8	1,132.1	4.8	113.6	128.3	127.2
1976 1st qtr.	101.9	101.8	107.3	106	149.4	22.5	266.5	206.9	205.5	1,223.2	5.2	115.5	131.6	124.0
2nd qtr.	102.1	103.2	106.7	106	154.9	16.0	292.6	214.4	212.8	1,246.5	5.3	119.6	137.1	137.1
3rd qtr.	101.6	102.6	108.7	97	158.5	13.7	306.8	223.2	218.6	1,307.5	5.5	124.7	132.8	137.2
1975 Nov.	100.7	100.9	105.2	81	144.2	25.2	256.7	198.9	195.6	1,133.0	4.8	111.8	123.4	128.0
Dec.	99.8	99.5	107.0	87	146.0	24.9	259.5	201.5	198.2	1,174.6	5.0	110.1	130.9	124.7
1976 Jan.	101.2	101.7	109.8	115	147.9	23.4	261.5	204.8	202.1	1,210.5	5.1	111.1	131.5	125.1
Feb.	102.5	102.0	107.1	101	149.8	22.9	263.9	207.3	206.4	1,232.4	5.2	113.5	128.4	127.0
Mar.	102.0	101.8	105.5	101	150.6	21.2	274.2	208.6	207.9	1,226.6	5.2	122.0	134.9	119.9
Apr.	102.1	102.9	108.5	118	153.5	18.9	286.3	211.5	210.1	1,233.7	5.2	123.9	134.8	134.0
May	104.3	106.1	105.7	112	155.2	15.4	292.0	214.8	211.7	1,250.0	5.3	120.6	138.2	139.7
June	100.0	100.4	106.1	88	156.0	13.8	299.6	217.0	216.6	1,255.7	5.3	114.3	138.4	137.7
July	101.7	103.0	108.3	87	156.3	12.9	302.0	219.8	218.5	1,294.6	5.5	117.6	129.8	140.0
Aug.	100.8	101.7	108.9	115	158.5	13.8	304.0	223.4	218.6	1,309.4	5.6	127.5	132.1	131.4
Sept.	102.4	103.2	108.8	88	160.6	14.3	314.4	226.3	218.7	1,318.6	5.6	129.0	136.6	140.1
Oct.	102.5	103.3	107.3	104	163.5	14.7	327.8p	229.9 p	218.7 p	1,305.4	5.5	126.2 p	140.1 p	142.7 p
Nov.			109 p	114p	165.8	15.0	331.9p	233.8 p						
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	−0.1	−0.4	+0.7	+5.5	+4.1		+7.6	+4.5	+1.4	+3.5		+8.6	+½	−½
on a year earlier	+2.1	+2.9	+2.8	+7.0	+14.7		+29.5	+16.8	+17.3	+26.1		−0.8	+11	+10

p Provisional pe Preliminary estimate † Base of index Jan. 1962 = 100 .. not available ø Average of 11 months

Inquiries: 01-215 3453

New companies registered

Below are details of new companies registered in Great Britain during November 1976 showing nominal capital. The figures are exclusive of unlimited companies and companies limited by guarantee.

Nominal capital	Total	Public companies	Private companies
Not exceeding £100	2,934	—	2,934
Over £100 but under £1,000	72	—	72
£1,000 but under £10,000	1,031	—	1,031
£10,000 but under £50,000	462	—	462
£50,000 but under £100,000	77	—	77
£100,000 but under £1,000,000	88	1	85
£1,000,000 and over	5	—	5
Total number	4,667	1	4,666
	£ thous	£ thous	£ thous
Total amount of nominal capital	60,549	175	60,374

Companies registered in Great Britain in 1975 and 1976 are as follows:

	1975		1976	
	Number	Nominal capital £ thous	Number	Nominal capital £ thous
January	3,648	18,631	3,476	21,780
February	3,442	22,886	4,088	19,228
March	3,478	22,419	6,190	41,680
April	4,944	24,352	4,150	22,354
May	4,245	42,314	4,343	25,095
June	3,465	20,856	5,624	25,815
July	3,752	26,703	4,954	58,659
August	3,267	47,668	4,221	44,690
September	3,781	32,241	4,377	25,342
October	3,879	25,224	4,600	34,544
November	3,739	35,028	4,667	60,549
December	3,450	27,881		
Total	45,090	346,203		

Section 8 accelerated projects scheme

This was a selective scheme announced in the Chancellor's budget speech in April 1975 to promote counter-cyclical industrial investment and modernisation which would not otherwise take place due to the adverse economic climate. The main criteria were that projects should be a net addition to the firm's capital investment programme; that they would be deferred but for government assistance; that they should be commercially sound; and that they should lead to an improvement in the balance of payments.

The table below shows offers made since 1 September 1975, against which a first payment was made to the company concerned in the period 1 September 1976 to 30 November 1976 by region.

Company	Product/activity	Type of assistance (see notes at foot of table)	Amount of assistance committed (£)
North West Region			
L. Gardner and Sons Ltd	Diesel engines	IRG	505,260
West Midlands Region			
GEC Machines Ltd	Coil winding	IRG	390,000
East Midlands Region			
Cherry Valley Farms Ltd	Poultry processing	IRG	149,000
Tungstone Products Ltd	Batteries	IRG	182,000
London and South Eastern Region			
Ruberoid Ltd	Glass tissue	IRG	67,500
Eastern Region			
Foster Refrigerator (UK) Ltd	Commercial refrigerators	IRG	276,500
Munton and Fisons Ltd	Malt processing	IRG	480,500
W. R. Grace Ltd	Packaging flim	IRG	97,020

Note:
IRG = Interest Relief Grant.

Sales by wholesale textile houses in October

Sales by wholesale textile houses in October showed a decrease of 4 per cent on a year earlier, compared with increases of 9 per cent in August and 4 per cent in September.

The value of stocks at the end of October showed an increase of 6 per cent compared with the same period last year.

TABLE 1 Total sales and stocks

Index numbers and *percentage increase compared with a year earlier* 1950 = 100

		Value of home sales		Value of stocks end period	
1966		110	*–3*	..	..
1967		104	*–5*	..	..
1968		108	*4*	..	..
1969		103	*–5*	..	..
1970		107	*4*	..	..
1971		115	*8*	..	..
1972		121	*5*	..	..
1973		134	*11*	..	..
1974		147	*9*	..	..
1975		147	*1*	..	..
1973	1st quarter	120	*18*	184	*12*
	2nd quarter	123	*11*	171	*17*
	3rd quarter	130	*6*	173	*12*
	4th quarter	163	*10*	204	*21*
1974	1st quarter	134	*12*	189	*3*
	2nd quarter	131	*7*	202	*18*
	3rd quarter	148	*13*	194	*12*
	4th quarter	173	*6*	198	*–3*
1975	1st quarter	143	*7*	219	*16*
	2nd quarter	135	*3*	197	*–2*
	3rd quarter	146	*–1*	193	*–1*
	4th quarter	165	*–5*	224	*13*
1976	1st quarter	133	*–8*	234	*7*
	2nd quarter	127	*–6*	212	*8*
	3rd quarter	149	*2*	204	*6*
1975	October	193	*–6*	197	*3*
	November	150	*–3*	231	*4*
	December	153	*–4*	224	*13*
1976	January	86	*–12*	213	*4*
	February	138	*–11*	227	*6*
	March	174	*–1*	234	*7*
	April	136	*–9*	208	*7*
	May	128	*—*	217	*2*
	June	119	*–9*	212	*8*
	July	115	*–8*	221	*6*
	August	137	*9*	216	*5*
	September	194	*4*	204	*6*
	October	184	*–4*	208	*6*

TABLE 2 Analysis by department

Percentage increase compared with a year earlier

	Sales		Stocks‡
	Oct. '76	Jan.- Oct.'76	Oct. '76
Women's knitted outerwear, blouses and skirts	–1	9	12
Women's coats, costumes, furs and raincoats	3	6	13
Women's underwear	–4	–11	1
Women's hose and children's socks	–5	–7	–3
Women's millinery	–50	–17	–12
Haberdashery, ribbons and wool	—	–2	1
Children's wear	7	2	26
Men's and boys' shirts, pyjamas and outfitting	–4	–3	–10
Gloves	–16	1	32
Piece-goods and nets	–14	7	50
Household textiles	10	7	20
Floor coverings, furniture and hardware	–5	–7	4
Boots and shoes	–5	1	–4
Total†	–4	–4	6

† Including some items not included among the sub-headings.
‡ Values at cost.

Note

These statistics are prepared by Textile Distributors' Association. Inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, the Textile Distributors' Association, 3 Berners Street, London W1P 4JP (tel. 01-580 2902).

Current account of the United Kingdom balance of payments for November

In November 1976 the current account is estimated to have been in deficit by £310 million. The deficit on trade in goods was £510 million, seasonally adjusted, and the balance on services and other current transactions is estimated to be running at a monthly surplus of about £200 million.

In the three months September to November there was a current account deficit of £653 million compared with £627 million in the previous three months.

£ million seasonally adjusted

	Current balance	Visible balance: Trade in goods	Invisible balance: Services and other current transactions
1974	−3,323	−5,220	+1,897
1975	−1,656	−3,204	+1,548
1975 1st quarter	−449	−852	+403
2nd quarter	−357	−681	+324
3rd quarter	−555	−989	+434
4th quarter	−295	−682	+387
1976 1st quarter	−33	−478	+445
2nd quarter	−533	−1,004	+471
3rd quarter	−637	−1,206	+569
1976 June	−180	−337	+157 b
July	−338	−528	+190 b
August	−109	−298	+189 b
September	−190	−380	+190 b
October	−154	−354	+200 a
November	−310	−510	+200 a
June-August	−627	−1,163	+536
Sept.-November	−653	−1,243	+590

a These figures are projections and are subject to revision as information becomes available.
b One-third of the appropriate calendar quarter's estimate. Monthly figures of invisibles are not available.

Visible trade

Summary: figures on a balance of payments basis (see tables 1 and 3)

In November , there was a deficit of £510 million, seasonally adjusted; the value of exports was £2,226 million and the value of imports £2,736 million. The deficit was £156 million greater than in October, the result of a rise of £4 million in the value of exports and £160 million in imports. Underlying the increase in imports was a very sharp rise of £146 million in the value of imported crude oil from a low October level.

The export unit value index rose by 2 per cent between October and November and the import unit value index by 3 per cent resulting in a fall of 1 per cent in the terms of trade index. In terms of volume, exports fell by 2½ per cent while imports, despite the rise in oil imports, were little changed in total.

In the three months ended November, the visible trade deficit was £1,243 million compared with £1,163 million in the previous three months. Exports were valued at £6,581 million, a rise of 9 per cent compared with the previous three months, while imports, at £7,824 million, increased by 8½ per cent. By volume, exports rose by 3 per cent while imports were 4 per cent higher. The terms of trade index fell by 1 per cent between the three monthly periods, the export unit value index rising by 5½ per cent compared with 6 per cent for the import unit value index.

Exports (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

Area analysis (see table 4). The value of exports to the developed countries in aggregate was 11 per cent higher in the three months ended November than in the previous three months. Shipments to the EEC and the rest of Western Europe rose by 15 per cent and 11 per cent respectively over this period, while the value of goods despatched to North America increased by 5½ per cent. Deliveries to the other developed countries (Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Japan) were 1½ per cent higher. Exports to the developing countries as a whole rose by 8 per cent, with the value of shipments to the oil exporting countries 13 per cent higher. The value of exports to the centrally planned economies was unchanged.

Commodity analysis (see tables 5, 6 and 7). In the three months ended November exports of manufactured goods in total were 8½ per cent higher in value than in the preceding three months, reflecting both increased prices and a greater volume of deliveries. Within this broad category, exports of textiles rose in value by 12 per cent, with the volume of shipments 6½ per cent higher, exports of chemicals were 9½ per cent higher in value, mainly reflecting increased prices; while the value of metals despatched rose by 1½ per cent, higher prices being offset by a fall of 7 per cent in the volume of deliveries. Exports of machinery rose by 4½ per cent, with the volume of shipments little changed, while exports of road motor vehicles and other transport equipment together increased by 6 per cent in value (including a rise of 10 per cent in the value of road motor vehicles) with both higher volumes and prices contributing. Much of the sharp rise of 18 per cent in the value of other manufactured goods exported reflected the high level of exports of precious stones in the latest three months. The value of exports of non-manufactures rose by 20 per cent over this period. The values of food, beverages and tobacco and of basic materials exported rose by 14 per cent and 18 per cent respectively, mainly due to increased volumes. Fuel exports were 30 per cent higher in value in the latest three months. Around one-half of this increase reflected higher crude oil exports.

Imports (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

Commodity analysis (see tables 8, 10 and 11). There were widespread increases in the value of imports for the major commodity groups between the three months ended November and the previous three months, reflecting higher prices and volumes. Between these periods imports of food, beverages and tobacco rose by 15 per cent in value with price and volume contributing equally. Imports of fuels were 8 per cent higher in value with a rise in price being the major factor although the volume of these imports increased by 2½ per cent. Imports of industrial materials in total rose by 13 per cent in value, price and volume increases contributing equally to this movement. Within this group, arrivals of chemicals increased by 11 per cent in value, about half of which resulted from greater volumes, while imports of other semi-manufactures were 16 per cent higher by value

TABLE 1 Visible trade on balance of payments basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million

	Exports (fob)	Imports (fob)	Visible balance
1974	15,899	21,119	−5,220
1975	18,768	21,972	−3,204
1974 1st quarter	3,481	4,769	−1,288
2nd quarter	4,008	5,363	−1,355
3rd quarter	4,223	5,465	−1,242
4th quarter	4,187	5,522	1,335
1975 1st quarter	4,531	5,383	−852
2nd quarter	4,479	5,160	−681
3rd quarter	4,632	5,621	−989
4th quarter	5,126	5,808	−682
1976 1st quarter r	5,419	5,897	−478
2nd quarter r	5,992	6,996	−1,004
3rd quarter r	6,121	7,327	−1,206
1976 June r	2,061	2,398	−337
July r	1,949	2,477	−528
August r	2,039	2,337	−298
September r	2,133	2,513	−380
October r	2,222	2,576	−354
November p	2,226	2,736	−510
Jun-Aug	6,049	7,212	−1,163
Sep-Nov	6,581	7,824	−1,243
Percentage change	+9	+8½	

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates

TABLE 2 Invisible trade ¶

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million

	Credits	Debits	Invisible balance
1974	10,169	8,272	+1,897
1975	11,047	9,499	+1,548
1974 1st quarter	2,469	1,999	+470
2nd quarter	2,533	2,028	+505
3rd quarter	2,527	2,041	+486
4th quarter	2,640	2,204	+436
1975 1st quarter	2,661	2,258	+403
2nd quarter	2,705	2,381	+324
3rd quarter	2,792	2,358	+434
4th quarter	2,889	2,502	+387
1976 1st quarter	3,057	2,612	+445
2nd quarter	3,254	2,783	+471
3rd quarter	3,477	2,908	+569
October			+200*
November			+200*

¶ See note 7.
* These figures are projections and are subject to revision as information becomes available.

TABLE 3 Export and import unit value and volume index numbers on a balance of payments basis

Indices 1970 = 100

	Unit values (not seasonally adjusted)			Volume (seasonally adjusted)	
	Exports	Imports	Terms of trade†	Exports	Imports
1974	162.7	218.0	74.6	130.1	135.2
1975	198.5	245.7	80.8	124.9	125.6
1974 1st quarter	147.2	194.9	75.5	126.7	133.9
2nd quarter	159.9	218.7	73.1	134.0	137.5
3rd quarter	168.1	224.5	74.9	133.4	136.4
4th quarter	175.8	231.7	75.9	126.5	133.0
1975 1st quarter	184.9	240.5	76.9	128.9	125.4
2nd quarter	193.4	241.1	80.2	122.6	122.2
3rd quarter	202.2	247.1	81.8	120.0	127.4
4th quarter	210.1	260.4	80.7	128.3	127.2
1976 1st quarter r	219.0	270.0	81.1	131.6	124.1
2nd quarter r	234.2	293.6	79.8	137.1	136.7
3rd quarter r	247.4	309.3	80.0	133.1	137.2
1976 June r	240.4	301.1	79.8	138.3	137.1
July r	242.6	306.1	79.3	129.9	140.3
August r	247.9	308.0	80.5	132.6	131.2
September r	251.7	313.8	80.2	136.7	140.1
October r	256.4	324.0	79.2	140.1	142.6
November p	261.7	334.0	78.4	136.7	142.1
June-Aug	243.6	305.1	79.9	133.6	136.2
Sep-Nov	256.6	323.9	79.3	137.8	141.6
Percentage change	+5½	+6	−1	+3	+4

† Export Unit Value Index as a percentage of the Import Unit Value Index.
p Provisional estimates.
r Revised estimates.

and 10 per cent by volume. In contrast the 10 per cent increase in the value of imported basic materials was largely accounted for by an 8½ per cent rise in the unit value index. The value of imports of finished manufactures in total rose by 5 per cent, mainly reflecting higher prices. Machinery imports in total fell by 5 per cent, reflecting the absence of major North Sea oil production installations in the latest three months. Excluding such items, imports of other machinery rose by 14 per cent in value and 10 per cent in volume. Imports of road motor vehicles were 22 per cent higher in value terms and other transport equipment rose by 23 per cent. For these groups combined, volume and price movements contributed equally to the 22 per cent rise in value. Other finished manufactures increased 13 per cent in value, with a 10 per cent rise in price being the major influence.

Area analysis (see table 9). The value of imports from the developed countries rose by 11 per cent in the three months ended November, compared with the previous three months. Imports from the EEC were 13 per cent higher while those from North America and the other developed countries increased by 12 per cent and 11 per cent respectively. Arrivals from the rest of Western Europe increased by 3½ per cent. Among the developing countries, there was a 4 per cent rise in deliveries from the oil exporting countries and an increase of 7 per cent in shipments from the other developing countries. In contrast, imports from the centrally planned economies fell by 9½ per cent.

Invisible trade (see table 2)

The latest estimate of invisibles relates to the third quarter of 1976 when credits on services and other current transactions were £3,477 million and debits £2,908 million, giving a surplus for the quarter of £569 million. The rate at which the monthly surplus is projected to be running currently has been revised upwards to £200 million.

Notes

1 Trade figures on a balance of payments basis. The seasonally adjusted import and export figures on a balance of payments basis are obtained by making various adjustments to the seasonally adjusted figures derived from those recorded in the monthly *Overseas Trade Statistics*. These adjustments are summarised in table 13 of this article. Some are valuation adjustments; the principal of these is the deduction from the import figure of freight and insurance costs. The other adjustments relate to coverage, either to bring in items not in the Trade Statistics (for example on the import side ships built and delivered abroad direct to UK owners) or to remove items which are in the Trade Statistics (mainly returned goods and goods for processing and repair). The adjustment of imports to a balance of payments basis excludes the values of deliveries of US military aircraft (including spares and some missiles) but includes the payments for those imports which are mainly being financed by a special Exim Bank credit (the values involved are now small). All these adjustments are described in greater detail in the annual '*Pink Book*' *United Kingdom Balance of Payments 1964–74* (table 4 and pp. 64–67) and in an article in the issue of *Trade and Industry* dated 4 November 1970.

Since firm figures for the adjustments do not become available as quickly as the recorded trade statistics, the figures for imports and exports on a balance of payments basis in the latest months are at this stage preliminary estimates and liable to revision.

TABLE 4 Exports: areas¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million fob

		Developed countries				Developing countries		
	Total	EEC	Rest of W. Europe	North America	Other	Oil exporting countries	Other	Centrally planned economies
1975	19,929	6,419	3,372	2,332	1,879	2,278	2,923	666
1975 4th quarter	5,464	1,851	915	632	472	614	759	167
1976 1st quarter	5,775	1,969	916	695	508	704	842	175
2nd quarter	6,337	2,251	1,062	784	468	757	807	189
3rd quarter	6,467	2,331	1,058	795	495	782	821	182
1976 September	2,262	848	375	269	167	273	276	64
October r	2,361	823	381	285	163	300	278	67
November p	2,358	897	434	261	157	292	305	56
June-August	6,370	2,232	1,070	774	481	769	831	187
September-November	6,982	2,566	1,190	815	487	865	859	187
Percentage change	+9½	+15	+11	+5½	+1½	+13	+3½	—

¶ See Note 2. r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates.

2 The adjustments described at Note 1 are made only for the monthly total of exports and imports (table 1) and the monthly figures of trade in petroleum and petroleum products (table 12). They are not estimated for the area and other commodity analyses of trade. The values of total trade and the main components of exports and imports in tables 4 to 11 are available only on the Overseas Trade Statistics basis. Whereas comment on total trade and trade in petroleum and petroleum products relates to figures for exports and imports on a balance of payments basis, analyses of the area and other commodity patterns of trade in this article are based on the figures on the Overseas Trade Statistics basis in tables 4 to 11. The main components of trade are seasonally adjusted independently from the totals and in consequence do not always add exactly to the seasonally adjusted totals.

3 Visible balance. The visible balance is the difference between the import and export figures on a balance of payments basis obtained as described in Note 1 above. Since, as noted above, the import and export figures for the most recent months are provisional, it follows that the monthly visible balances for these months are also provisional and liable to revision.

The monthly figures for the visible balance are published only on a seasonally adjusted basis. Since the balance is the difference of two large and variable figures, it is itself liable to fluctuation and undue significance should not be attached to a single month's figure; it is more useful to consider the average balance over three or more months.

4 Trends. Even after allowing for seasonal influences, the sequence of monthly figures is usually too variable to give a satisfactory indication of the underlying trend. While it is possible to construct elaborate estimates of trend these cannot be applied to the most recent months, and a simple method of giving some guidance on underlying movements in the most recent past is to take averages of three months. Apart from occasions when major disturbances distort the flows of trade, the three-monthly average gives a quite good short-term guide and has the merit of simplicity.

5 Recording of exports. The present system for the documentation of exports aimed at securing their full recording was introduced in October 1971; the system, and the methods used to monitor the accuracy of the resulting figures, were described in an article in *Trade and Industry*, 15 February 1973.

Regular assessments of the quality of recording showed that, during 1974, adjustments increasing the export figures by between £6 million and £8 million a month were necessary. Continued monitoring has shown that since then there has been no need to make adjustments for either a shortfall in documentation or a change in the speed of submission of documents.

6 Timing. The figures for exports relate to documents received in the Statistical Office of HM Customs and Excise up to a few days before the end of the calendar month. On average export documents arrive at the Customs Statistical Office within a fortnight of the shipment of goods, so that the documents relate to goods passing

TABLE 5 Exports: commodity classes¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million fob

					Manufactures									
						Machinery and transport equipment								
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment*	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures	Miscellaneous
1975	19,929	1,428	561	814	16,464	8,236	5,784	1,737	715	2,179	1,839	698	3,512	662
1975 4th quarter	5,464	396	156	219	4,518	2,208	1,564	456	210	579	451	190	1,045	179
1976 1st quarter	5,775	404	164	243	4,763	2,376	1,679	512	190	683	484	204	1,048	194
2nd quarter	6,337	398	186	281	5,287	2,525	1,741	561	203	738	582	223	1,268	168
3rd quarter	6,467	412	196	331	5,382	2,521	1,750	562	200	782	643	239	1,179	176
1976 September	2,262	148	70	114	1,890	868	601	200	60	272	215	84	436	67
October r	2,361	149	78	128	1,906	879	604	186	89	280	194	83	473	73
November p	2,358	159	78	145	1,958	894	621	221	63	282	238	90	430	47
June-Aug	6,370	401	192	299	5 293	2,537	1,747	551	222	763	639	230	1,134	163
Sep-Nov	6,982	457	226	388	5,755	2,640	1,827	607	212	835	647	257	1,338	187
Percentage change	+9½	+14	+18	+30	+8½	+4	+4½	+10	−4	+9½	+1½	+12	+18	+15

* Not seasonally adjusted. ¶ See note 2. r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates.

TABLE 6 Exports: volume indices Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

					Manufactures						
						Machinery and transport equipment					
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures
Weights	1,000	64	34	26	844	410	276	134	97	119	49	169
1975	129.8	155	107	93	130	133	136	128	142	102	105	145
1975 4th quarter	133.7	170	118	90	133	131	134	130	145	93	113	160
1976 1st quarter	137.2	166	119	93	137	136	139	130	168	101	117	159
2nd quarter	141.9	150	122	103	143	135	135	132	169	114	123	180
3rd quarter	137.6	152	118	114	139	130	132	124	172	118	125	160
1976 September	141.9	162	125	112	145	132	134	127	175	115	132	174
October r	145.7	160	129	123	144	133	132	134	180	102	124	183
November p	141.7	160	136	130	144	134	132	143	177	117	131	164
June-August	137.7	149	118	107	139	132	132	127	171	120	121	156
September-November	143.1	161	130	122	144	133	133	135	178	112	129	174
Percentage change	+4	+7½	+10	+14	+4	+1	+½	+5½	+3½	−7	+6½	+11

p Provisional estimates.

through the ports in the month ending about the middle of the calendar month to which they are attributed. The figures for imports relate to documents received at the Customs Statistical Office up to the third working day after the end of the month. Importers are usually required to present their documents before they can obtain Customs clearance and remove the goods. Thus the import statistics correspond closely to movements through the ports during the calendar month to which they are attributed.

7 Invisible trade (services and other current transactions) covers the following items: Government services and transfer payments; all other services including sea and air transport, travel, and insurance, banking and other financial transactions; overseas income in the form of interest, profits and dividends; and private transfers. The monthly figures are inevitably less precise than those for visible trade for several reasons: the data are not available on a monthly basis (some are reported quarterly, others less frequently) and the figures are, therefore, essentially projections based on past trends; revisions, affecting particularly gross credits and debits, but often the balance as well, are more frequent; and the gross figures themselves include a number of items which are appropriately recorded as the net profit or surplus arising on the transactions.

8 Trade in petroleum and petroleum products. Trade in petroleum and petroleum products (table 12) accounts for almost all the trade in Fuels, Section 3 of SITC(R) which is included in tables 5 and 8. Import and export figures are shown for crude oil and for the rest of the division which includes petroleum partly refined for further refining and petroleum products (eg motor spirit, lamp oil and white spirit, distillate fuels, residual fuel oils, lubricating oils and greases, etc.).

The figures of value and tonnage of crude oil imports in table 12 are based on reports to HM Customs and Excise and have been seasonally adjusted with the same seasonal and length of month factors as have been used for the Fuels total in table 8. These figures cannot be directly compared with the monthly import tonnages originating from the Department of Energy which are published in the *Monthly Digest of Statistics* and the *Digest of Energy Statistics*, as the latter are based on reports received directly from the oil industry and are unadjusted. Over longer periods the differences between the two sources are largely resolved.

For imports, the average value of crude oil per ton has been obtained by dividing the value of crude oil imports by the tonnage and will reflect not only changes in price but also changes in the commodity mix of imports due, for example, to differing qualities of crude oil.

The figures of value of crude oil exports have been seasonally adjusted with the same seasonal and length of month factors as have been used for the Fuels total in table 5. These figures include oil which has been re-exported.

9 Unit value and volume indices. A brief description of the way in which the index numbers on a balance of payments basis are calculated was published in the article giving unit value and volume index numbers for March 1971 in *Trade and Industry* of 26 May 1971. An article was published in *Trade and Industry* on 11 October 1973 introducing the series of import and export unit value and volume indices with 1970 = 100. The purpose of the index numbers is to measure the changes in price and volume of our imports and exports. Index numbers can be constructed in various ways, and the series used here are of the fixed base type. Thus, the unit value indices measure changes in 'price' of a fixed selection of trade headings (al-

TABLE 7 Exports: unit value indices Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Not seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

					Manufactures							
						Machinery and transport equipment						
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures
1975	198.3	178	198	439	193	196	200	189	209	194	177	180
1975 4th quarter	210.1	187	202	474	205	213	217	203	211	202	180	192
1976 1st quarter	218.9	192	211	496	214	224	231	210	219	206	185	199
2nd quarter	234.3	211	229	530	229	242	248	230	232	216	196	213
3rd quarter	247.4	220	249	553	242	254	258	246	245	233	207	226
1976 September	251.7	222	253	565	246	259	264	251	250	237	209	230
October r	256.4	228	261	581	251	263	266	256	252	243	219	234
November p	261.7	230	262	623	255	266	271	254	259	251	220	240
June-August	243.7	218	246	544	238	250	255	241	241	228	206	223
September-November	256.6	227	259	590	251	263	267	254	254	244	216	235
Percentage change	+5½	+4	+5	+8½	+5½	+5	+5	+5½	+5	+7	+5	+5½

p Provisional estimates.

TABLE 8 Imports: commodity classes¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million ci[1]

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures						
									Machinery and transport equipment†					
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery†	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment*	Other	Miscellaneous
1975	24,163	4,346	4,310	8,364	2,214	1,409	4,741	6,655	4,782	3,603	883	297	1,872	489
1975 4th quarter	6,462	1,208	1,190	2,203	568	394	1,242	1,757	1,246	955	234	60	511	106
1976 1st quarter	6,612	1,020	1,303	2,402	676	430	1,295	1,818	1,265	901	264	95	553	92
2nd quarter	7,746	1,272	1,354	2,784	780	489	1,515	2,178	1,592	1,179	332	99	586	119
3rd quarter	8,098	1,261	1,514	2,891	856	517	1,518	2,347	1,726	1,257	400	64	621	113
1976 September	2,815	455	523	1,024	299	187	539	790	575	394	157	20	215	39
October r	2,872	498	420	1,062	284	188	590	877	648	455	141	45	228	30
November p	3,036	492	596	1,101	327	193	581	808	561	410	139	25	248	34
June-August	7,952	1,252	1,427	2,812	826	510	1,476	2,359	1,751	1,325	358	73	608	121
September-November	8,723	1,444	1,539	3,187	910	568	1,709	2,474	1,784	1,259	437	90	690	102
Percentage change	+9½	+15	+8	+13	+10	+11	+16	+5	+2	−5	+22	+23	+13	−15

* Not seasonally adjusted. † Includes North Sea production installations. ¶See Note 2. r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates.

though in practice it is not specific prices which are measured but the average price of all the varying transactions taking place each month in the selected headings, reflecting different kinds of goods covered by each heading and different markets or courses of supply).

Correspondingly, the volume indices measure, for the same selection of trade headings, what the change in the value of trade would be assuming no changes in the prices charged from those in the base year. Because the indices are base weighted, they do not take account of the changes in the pattern of trade since the base year, and consequently their product does not precisely account for the change in the value of trade expressed as an index. In practice, though, since the composition of trade changes little between consecutive months, the product of the changes in the indices will often approximate to the change in the value of trade between one month and the next. A full methodological article about the 1970-based series of indices was published in the April 1975 issue of *Economic Trends*. Adjustments have been made to the import volume index to include North Sea oil production installations, however no changes have been made to the base-weighted unit value index.

TABLE 9 Imports: areas¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million ci

	Total	Developed countries				Developing countries		Centrally planned economies
		EEC	Rest of W. Europe	North America	Other	Oil exporting countries	Other	
1975	24,163	8,805	3,566	3,208	1,855	3,274	2,666	753
1975 4th quarter	6,462	2,423	941	789	491	825	724	213
1976 1st quarter	6,612	2,423	978	871	414	941	760	276
2nd quarter	7,746	2,902	1,095	1,051	498	964	889	310
3rd quarter	8,098	2,806	1,226	1,132	587	1,202	909	270
1976 September	2,815	1,022	401	404	192	402	308	89
October r	2,872	1,064	403	433	196	314	316	90
November p	3,036	1,091	425	380	236	452	345	82
June-August	7,952	2,813	1,187	1,088	562	1,122	907	288
September-November	8,723	3,177	1,229	1,217	625	1,169	969	261
Percentage change	+9½	+13	+3½	+12	+11	+4	+7	−9½

¶ See Note 2. r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates.

TABLE 10 Imports: volume indices
Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Industrial materials				Finished manufactures				
				Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Machinery and transport equipment**			Other
									Total	Machinery**	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	
Weights	1,000	227	105	427	151	60	216	229	166	133	33	63
1975	124.4	98	89	113	78	122	135	183	182	176	203	186
1975 4th quarter	127.6	107	90	116	78	133	138	182	179	177	190	188
1976 1st quarter	125.7	91	90	123	92	143	140	183	177	164	224	198
2nd quarter	136.0	104	88	129	96	149	146	197	199	190	250	190
3rd quarter	136.4	104	90	127	97	153	140	204	208	195	258	193
1976 September	141.6	109	91	133	100	166	147	208	212	188	293	197
October r	142.1	113	74	135	90	159	159	217	223	206	278	200
November p	142.0	110	99	134	100	159	151	198	196	192	231	205
June-August	134.7	103	86	125	95	152	138	203	208	202	241	190
September-November	141.9	111	88	134	97	161	152	208	210	195	267	201
Percentage change	+5½	+7	+2½	+7	+2	+6	+10	+2	+1	−3½	+11	+5½

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates. ** Includes North Sea production installations.

TABLE 11 Imports: unit value indices
Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Not seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Industrial materials				Finished manufactures				
				Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Machinery and transport equipment			Other
									Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	
1975	235.9	219	535	199	215	229	180	188	183	181	194	200
1975 4th quarter	249.5	223	591	206	222	234	187	205	199	197	210	220
1976 1st quarter	258.8	228	636	210	226	239	190	213	207	204	221	226
2nd quarter	281.4	243	686	230	248	262	210	234	230	225	251	242
3rd quarter	296.4	246	728	247	266	274	226	246	242	237	262	258
1976 September	301.0	252	738	250	271	276	228	249	244	237	272	265
October r	312.0	263	744	261	284	295	236	262	255	249	282	279
November p	320.2	269	781	266	295	296	238	266	260	251	293	284
June-August	292.5	244	720	243	262	270	222	243	240	235	257	251
September-November	311.1	262	755	259	283	289	234	259	253	246	282	276
Percentage change	+6½	+7	+5	+7	+8½	+7	+5½	+7	+5½	+4½	+10	+10

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

10 Definition of areas. the areas used in tables 4 and 9 of this article comprise the following countries:

EEC – West Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Italy, Denmark and Irish Republic.
Rest of Western Europe – Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Austria, Andorra, Vatican City, Greece, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Spain, Faroe Islands, Gibraltar, Malta, Continental Shelf (Foreign Part).
North America – USA, Canada, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, Greenland.
Other Developed Countries – Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Africa.
Centrally Planned Economies – Soviet Union, Poland, East Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, China, North Korea, North Vietnam and Outer Mongolia.
Oil Exporting Countries – Abu Dhabi, Algeria, Bahrein, Brunei, Dubai, Ecuador, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sharjah etc., Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela.
Other Developing Countries – All other countries.

11 Revisions to trade figures. As a result of later and more complete information the previously published figures of imports and exports on a balance of payments basis have been revised.

Overseas Trade Statistics
Detailed particulars of United Kingdom imports and exports for

TABLE 12 Trade in petroleum and petroleum products¶ On a Balance of Payments basis (Division 33 of SITC(R))

Seasonally adjusted

	Balance of Visible trade	Imports				Exports			
		Total	Crude oil			Rest of Division 33	Total	Crude oil	Rest of Division 33
	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	million fob	Average value per ton £ fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob
1974	−3,422	4,118	3,347	109.1	30.7	771	696	29	667
1975	−3,114	3,835	3,071	85.8	35.8	764	721	30	691
1974 1st quarter	−730	866	705	28.4	25.0	161	136	3	133
2nd quarter	−889	1,091	903	28.2	32.1	188	202	12	190
3rd quarter	−897	1,080	869	26.4	33.1	211	183	6	177
4th quarter	−906	1,081	870	26.1	33.5	211	175	8	167
1975 1st quarter	−766	943	753	22.1	34.2	190	177	7	170
2nd quarter	−689	843	698	20.7	33.7	145	154	1	153
3rd quarter	−795	985	806	22.7	35.6	179	190	6	184
4th quarter	−864	1,064	814	20.3	40.2	250	200	16	184
1976 1st quarter	−959	1,180	931	21.5	43.4	249	221	18	203
2nd quarter	−968	1,225	962	20.7	46.5	263	257	24	233
3rd quarter r	−1,064	1,374	1,096	22.1	49.6	278	310	43	267
September r	−372	479	387	7.8	49.8	92	107	18	89
October r	−261	381	309	6.2	49.9	72	120	26	94
November p	−409	544	455	8.7	52.3	89	135	36	99
June-August	−1,012	1,290	1,025	20.9	49.1	265	278	35	243
September-November	−1,042	1,403	1,150	22.7	50.8	253	362	80	282
Percentage change		+9	+12	+8½	+3½	−4½	+30	+129	+16

p Provisional estimates r Revised estimates. ¶ See note 8.

TABLE 13 Derivation of the visible trade figures on a balance of payments basis

£ million

	Exports				Imports				
	Recorded	Seasonally adjusted†			Recorded	Seasonally adjusted†			
	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (fob)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (fob)	Coverage adjustments	Balance of Payments basis (fob)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (cif)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (cif)	Adjustments to BOP basis: Valuation adjustments	Adjustments to BOP basis: Coverage adjustments	Balance of Payments basis (fob)
1974	16,600	16,600	−701	15,899	23,234	23,234	−1,643	−472	21,119
1975	19,929	19,929	−1,161	18,768	24,163	24,163	−1,604	−587	21,972
1974 1st quarter	3,617	3,637	−156	3,481	5,375	5,269	−415	−85	4,769
2nd quarter	4,221	4,145	−137	4,008	6,001	5,936	−419	−154	5,363
3rd quarter	4,238	4,430	−207	4,223	5,795	5,992	−413	−115	5,465
4th quarter	4,524	4,388	−201	4,187	6,063	6,036	−396	−118	5,522
1975 1st quarter	4,595	4,781	−250	4,531	5,882	5,879	−374	−122	5,383
2nd quarter	4,943	4,744	−265	4,479	5,844	5,632	−385	−87	5,160
3rd quarter	4,798	4,940	−307	4,632	6,010	6,191	−415	−155	5,621
4th quarter	5,593	5,464	−338	5,126	6,427	6,462	−430	−223	5,808
1976 1st quarter r	5,818	5,775	−356	5,419	6,820	6,612	−433	−282	5,897
2nd quarter r	6,393	6,337	−346	5,992	7,776	7,746	−506	−244	6,996
3rd quarter r	6,260	6,467	−346	6,121	7,805	8,098	−524	−247	7,327
1976 June r	2,294	2,165	−105	2,061	2,802	2,668	−182	−89	2,398
July r	2,103	2,055	−106	1,949	2,710	2,704	−177	−50	2,477
August r	1,961	2,150	−111	2,039	2,361	2,580	−162	−80	2,337
September r	2,196	2,262	−129	2,133	2,734	2,815	−185	−118	2,513
October r	2,304	2,361	−140	2,222	2,806	2,872	−189	−107	2,576
November p	2,499	2,358	−132	2,226	3,104	3,036	−200	−100	2,736
June-August	6,358	6,370	−321	6,049	7,873	7,952	−521	−218	7,212
September-November	6,999	6,982	−401	6,581	8,644	8,723	−574	−325	7,824
Percentage change	+10	+9½		+9	+10	+9½			+8½

† Components and totals are rounded independently. p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

November with cumulative totals will be published on 29 December* and further analysis of the figures will be found in tables 125 to 143 in the Monthly Digest for December†, due to be published in the second week of January.

Inquiries
Telephone inquiries concerning this article should be referred to: 01-215 3131 (value data) and 01-215 3466 (indices).

* *Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom*, published by HMSO, price £4.75 (Annual subscription £64.44).
† *Monthly Digest of Statistics*, published by HMSO, price £1.45 (Annual subscription including supplement of definitions and postage £21.28).

'T & I' index inquiries

Readers wanting to know when articles and items of information were published in *Trade and Industry* should consult the published indexes which are issued free to subscribers. For material published in recent months, inquiries of this kind can be made to the Department of Industry Library's indexing section, tel. 01-215 5842 or 01-215 5050

Footwear industry: orders, deliveries and stocks

In the three months ended September 1976 deliveries were estimated to be 6 per cent higher, on a seasonally adjusted pairage basis, than in the three months ended June 1976. Net new orders were 4 per cent higher than in the previous three months, while at the end of September orders on hand were 17 per cent down on the June 1976 level. The index of output in the three months ended September 1976 was 7 per cent higher than in the three months ended June 1976.

A detailed breakdown of manufacturers' deliveries by type of footwear in pairage and value terms, together with figures of exports, imports, consumers' expenditure, prices and employment is published in the Business Monitor Production series under the reference PQ 450.

The index of output is calculated from the value of total sales and work done by firms classified to the footwear industry (Minimum List Heading 450 of the Standard Industrial Classification). In using the index numbers it should be borne in mind that when price increases are large, the various problems associated with constructing a constant price value series become more acute. Because of these difficulties the relative accuracy of the estimates is likely to have been reduced in recent years.

The data on pairage and value relate to complete footwear only sold by manufacturers, classified to MLH 450 and to other industries (eg rubber) in the SIC, employing 25 or more persons.

Index of output: Orders on hand, net new orders, deliveries and stocks of complete footwear

Monthly averages or monthly totals

	Index of output 1970 = 100	Orders on hand (end period)		Net new orders			Deliveries			Stocks (end period)
		Million pairs	£ million	Million pairs		£ million	Million pairs		£ million	Million pairs
1966		33.6					16.4			
1967		37.8		16.5			16.1			
1968	113	41.6		17.3			17.0			
1969	108	34.6		15.9			16.5			
1970	100	38.9		16.6			16.2			
1971	108	32.5	55.7	15.7			16.2		23.8	19.4
1972	104	29.5	59.6	15.2		24.8	15.4		24.5	18.5
1973	108	46.2	85.2	17.1		30.5	15.7		28.4	16.5
1974	107	44.3	79.5	14.3		30.9	14.4		31.3	18.0
1975	101	38.8	91.8	13.2		36.2	13.7		35.1	15.8
	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Actual	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Actual	Seasonally adjusted	Actual	Actual
1975 1st quarter	106	36.2	63.2	11.9	11.0	31.3	14.6	14.6	36.7	18.3
2nd quarter	95	41.2	82.4	14.0	13.4	36.8	12.3	13.1	30.4	23.1
3rd quarter	101	33.1	70.0	11.4	13.9	33.1	14.1	13.8	37.2	17.4
4th quarter	101	38.8	91.8	15.5	14.6	43.4	13.6	13.4	36.1	15.8
1976 1st quarter	101	42.6	89.2	14.6	13.1	38.9	13.3	12.9	39.8	19.0
2nd quarter	100	46.6	108.0	12.9	13.0	40.7	11.6	12.5	34.4	20.9
3rd quarter p	107	38.6	94.0	11.1	13.5	37.9	13.8	13.3	42.6	17.2
1975 January	109	39.2	71.7	9.6	9.3	29.0	14.7	14.8	36.8	
February	110	33.8	63.2	9.4	8.9	29.1	14.8	14.7	37.6	
March	99	36.2	63.2	16.6	14.7	35.7	14.1	14.2	35.7	
April	91	40.3	75.2	17.2	13.1	43.8	13.1	12.9	31.9	
May	89	44.0	88.0	14.8	13.6	40.0	11.1	12.5	27.2	
June	105	41.2	82.4	9.9	13.5	26.5	12.8	13.9	32.1	
July	104	34.0	68.8	6.7	10.7	24.3	13.8	13.6	37.9	
August	98	33.0	67.5	11.3	15.5	30.0	12.3	13.6	31.3	
September	103	33.1	70.0	16.3	15.5	44.9	16.2	14.1	42.4	
October	102	38.5	87.2	21.8	16.2	59.9	16.4	13.6	42.8	
November	100	38.8	92.8	13.8	12.4	40.5	13.5	13.3	34.9	
December	102	38.8	91.8	10.9	15.4	29.7	11.0	13.2	30.6	
1976 January	105	38.9	88.2	13.2	13.4	33.9	13.1	13.8	37.6	
February	104	40.0	89.3	14.1	13.2	40.3	12.9	12.8	39.2	
March	94	42.6	89.2	16.5	12.8	42.5	13.9	12.1	42.6	
April	96	43.4	94.8	12.5	10.0	40.2	11.7	12.0	34.7	
May	103	48.2	108.8	16.0	15.5	47.2	11.1	13.1	33.2	
June	100	46.6	108.0	10.3	13.5	34.5	11.9	12.3	35.4	
July p	103	42.6	95.0	8.4	13.7	25.8	12.4	12.7	38.7	
August p	105	39.8	92.1	9.2	11.9	35.3	12.0	12.5	38.3	
September p	114	38.6	94.0	15.7	14.9	52.7	17.0	14.8*	50.8	

p = Provisional.
* Based on early returns, seasonally adjusted deliveries in October are estimated to be 13½ million pairs.

Inquiries: 01-212 0494.

Engineering sales and orders (SIC VII, VIII and IX) up to September

The most recent but provisional trend estimates and seasonally adjusted volume index numbers of engineering sales and orders indicate an improvement in the inflow of both home and export net new orders and possibly the beginning of a recovery in total order books.

The latest figures confirm the growth in overseas demand that has taken place since the end of last year and show clearer signs of recovery in home ordering. Due to the 'lead' time between order and delivery, however, it will be some while before these increases feed through to sales. Total and home sales have made only a slight recovery from the trough of the first quarter and although export sales had shown a stronger increase, they have recently fallen back again. Export order books during the last few months have begun to recover from a low level due to the high value of overseas contracts gained, and there are tentative indications that the two-year decline in home order books may now have levelled out, with total orders-on-hand possibly beginning to edge upwards again.

The inflow of new home orders increased by 8 per cent in the third quarter of 1976, as measured by trend estimates, following their rather tentative recovery during the first half of the year. Home sales have changed very little in recent months and remain at a level only slightly above the low point reached in the first quarter. The inflow of new home orders in September was greater than home sales for the first time in over two years. Although this led to a slight improvement in home orders-on-hand in the month and may suggest the beginning of a recovery in home order books, it is too early for any lengthening to show up in the trend estimates, which indicate a decline of 3 per cent during the third quarter.

New export orders have shown a much stronger recovery than home orders, particularly in the electrical engineering industry. The increase in the trend of net new export orders for the whole engineering sector was 12 per cent between June and September. Export sales, however, which showed some improvement earlier this year, have declined again, falling 2 per cent during the quarter ending in September. This rise and decline in export sales is perhaps related to the similar improvement and later set-back in the volume of new export orders which took place during the spring and autumn of 1975. Export orders-on-hand, which turned upwards during the second quarter, showed an increase in trend of 2½ per cent in the three months to September, due mostly to the large overseas contracts gained by some electrical engineering firms.

The improvement in the inflow of both home and export new orders resulted in an increase of 9½ per cent in total new orders during the third quarter of 1976. This continued the fairly steady rise from the trough at the end of 1975. The fall in the trend of export sales was just offset by the slight rise in home sales, leaving the level of total sales unchanged between June and September.

The seasonally adjusted index numbers for total orders-on-hand show that the level of total order books at the end of the third quarter was 1 per cent above that at the end of the second. This might be an early and tentative sign that the falling level may have been arrested and some recovery may ensue. This is still far from established, however, as the continued slight decline of 1 per cent in the trend estimate shows that the modest improvement in a single month needs to be considered with caution.

The revised figures published in this table are based on the Monthly Engineering Inquiry relating to September 1976. The response rate of 88 per cent to the inquiry for September is judged sufficient to justify publication of provisional indices for this month. Taking into account late returns now received for June, July and August response rates for these months were 91, 91 and 89 per cent respectively.

When using the volume index numbers and trends shown in the accompanying table, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the values of engineering sales and orders to constant prices

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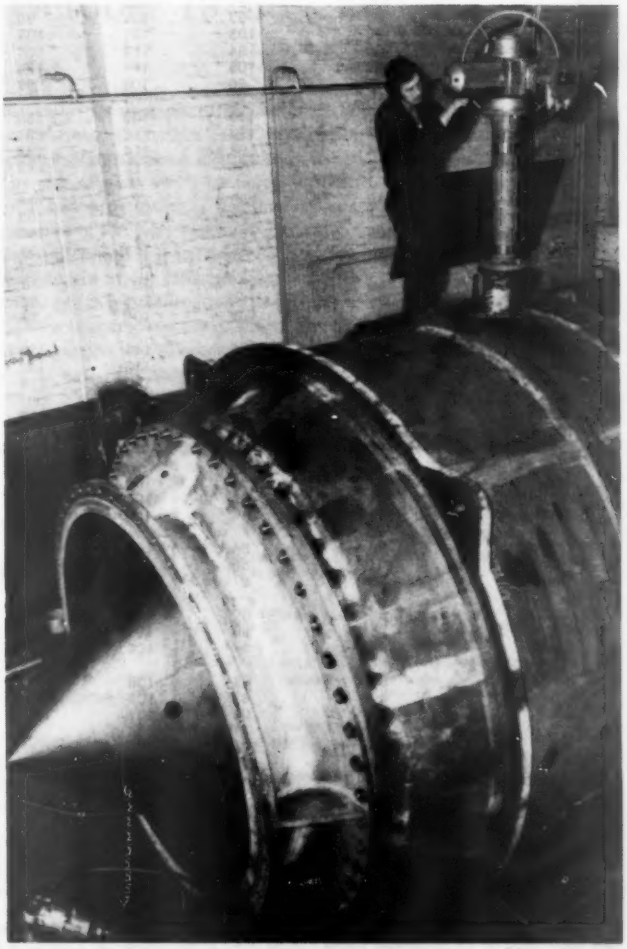
Rotork actuator saves 22,394 turns

A Rotork Syncroset electric actuator being fitted to what may be one of the largest needle valves ever made. Designed by Boving and Co Ltd, Valve Division, London, the 2,000mm diameter valve is destinated for the new Wadi Caam Dam in the United Arab Republic of Libya, where it will be used to control the level of the water and its distribution for irrigation purposes. The actuator, supplied by Rotork Controls Ltd, Bath, operates at 96rpm and achieves automatic opening and closing of the valve in 5.18 minutes – a rather necessary alternative to hand operation which would require 22,394 turns of the 24-in diameter emergency handwheel because the valve is geared down so that it can be operated by one man.



Index numbers for the combined engineering industries (SIC orders VII, VIII and IX) (a)

Volume index numbers: Orders-on-hand. December 1970 unadjusted = 100 Net new orders and sales, 1970 average monthly sales = 100

	Total			Home			Export		
	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	Net new orders	Sales	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	Net new orders	Sales	Orders-on-hand (end of period)	Net new orders	Sales
Trend estimates									
1974 July	137	110	113	132	108	112	147	114	116
August	136	107	113	131	106	112	146	108	117
September	134	103	113	129	103	112	144	104	117
October	133	100	113	128	99	111	142	101	118
November	130	96	113	125	95	111	140	99	118
December	128	93	113	123	92	111	137	96	118
1975 January	125	92	113	120	91	110	135	95	118
February	122	91	112	117	90	110	132	94	117
March	119	92	111	114	90	109	129	95	117
April	117	92	110	112	90	107	127	97	116
May	115	92	109	109	89	106	125	100	116
June	112	92	108	107	88	104	123	102	115
July	110	91	107	105	86	104	122	103	115
August	108	90	106	102	85	103	120	101	114
September	106	88	105	99	84	102	118	98	113
October	103	86	104	96	83	101	116	95	112
November	101	86	103	94	83	100	114	94	112
December	98	87	103	92	84	99	112	94	112
1976 January	96	88	103	90	85	98	110	94	114
February	95	90	103	89	88	98	107	96	115
March	93	92	104	87	89	99	105	100	117
April	92	94	105	86	90	99	104	105	118
May	91	96	105	85	90	100	103	112	118
June	90	99	105	83	91	100	103	119	117
July	90	102	105	82	93	100	104	125	117
August	89	105	105	82	95	100	105	130	116
September	89	108	105	81	98	100	106	133	115
Percentage change (b) June-September 1976	−1.0	+9.5	—	−3.0	+8.0	+1.0	+2.5	+12.0	−2.0
Seasonally adjusted									
1969	101	100	97	102	99	99	100	102	91
1970	100	99	100	100	99	100	100	100	100
1971	93	97	101	95	98	101	89	93	102
1972	99	103	101	103	108	105	90	91	92
1973	133	134	113	134	136	117	131	131	102
1974	128	109	111	123	105	111	139	118	113
1975	99	90	108	91	87	105	113	98	115
1974 1st quarter	136	117	108	133	109	110	142	135	105
2nd quarter	138	117	112	133	112	111	148	128	113
3rd quarter	134	106	114	130	106	112	144	105	117
4th quarter	128	97	112	123	94	110	139	104	117
1975 1st quarter	119	89	112	114	89	110	128	89	118
2nd quarter	113	95	109	108	92	106	124	102	115
3rd quarter	106	90	107	100	86	103	118	101	114
4th quarter	99	85	103	91	80	100	113	98	112
1976 1st quarter	94	91	103	88	89	98	106	95	115
2nd quarter	90	95	106	84	90	100	102	106	118
3rd quarter	90	107	105	82	96	100	108	133	116
1975 January	124	86	114	119	85	112	135	88	119
February	122	97	113	117	98	111	132	95	118
March	119	85	110	114	85	108	128	85	117
April	116	94	112	111	94	111	126	95	115
May	115	100	107	110	94	104	126	114	115
June	113	90	106	108	86	103	124	98	115
July	109	84	109	104	77	105	121	99	120
August	108	93	102	102	84	99	121	115	110
September	106	94	109	100	96	107	118	88	113
October	103	84	107	96	79	104	116	96	112
November	101	85	103	94	83	98	113	89	114
December	99	87	100	91	77	96	113	110	110
1976 January	96	80	102	89	82	97	109	76	113
February	95	95	101	89	94	96	107	99	113
March	94	97	106	88	92	100	106	110	120
April	92	93	108	86	91	103	103	99	119
May	90	93	107	84	89	101	102	104	119
June	90	98	102	84	92	97	102	115	116
July	89	102	103	82	83	96	105	148	119
August	89	102	103	81	95	100	106	121	110
September	90	116	108	82	110	104	108	131	118
April-June 76 (av.)	90	95	106	84	90	100	102	106	118
July-Sept. 76 (av.)	90	107	105	82	96	100	108	133	116
Percentage change (b)	+1.0	+12.5	−1.0	−2.5	+6.0	−0.5	+6.0	+26.0	−1.5

(a) All figures are provisional.

(b) For orders on hand, the percentage changes compare the level at the end of the latest period shown with the corresponding level for the earlier period. The percentage changes have been based on the unrounded values and are given to the nearest half percentage point.

A library for exporters

Foreign trade statistics and other economic statistics from almost every country in the world are available for reference in the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library at Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU. A modern well-equipped library of over 85,000 volumes, it has a reading room for visitors and provides a document-copying service. There are trade directories covering 150 countries, and an expanding collection of trade catalogues of overseas manufacturers. The library opens from 9 to 5.30, Mondays to Fridays (Tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 368 or Telex No 886143).

become more acute. Because of these difficulties the relative accuracy of the volume estimates is likely to have been reduced in recent months and studies are currently in hand to ascertain the possible directions and magnitudes of any biases, which may lead to revisions in due course.

An expanded commentary, together with additional tables, is given in Business Monitor PM 33–36, Engineering (volume indices of sales and orders), obtainable from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, post free for a subscription of £2.22 per annum. Separate commentaries and volume indices are given for sales, orders-on-hand and net new orders for total, home and export markets, for mechanical, instrument and electrical engineering (SIC Orders VII, VIII and IX respectively).

Inquiries: Department of Industry, Room 618, Dean Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AG (01-212 5770).

Regional selective assistance

The tables below show on a regional basis, the number and value of applications received and also the number and value of offers made under section 7 of the Industry Act for the months of September and October 1976.

SEPTEMBER 1976

	Applications received		Offers made	
Region	No	Value (£'000)	No	Value (£'000)
Scotland	13	6,894	19	2,322
Wales	13	16,984	9	582
Northern	13	5,059	13	1,607
North West	20	4,403	11	577
Yorkshire and Humberside	18	2,475	26	2,058
South West	1	1	2	4
East Midlands	5	486	6	61
West Midlands	—	—	—	—
Total	83	36,302	86	7,211

OCTOBER 1976

	Applications received		Offers made	
Region	No	Value (£'000)	No	Value (£'000)
Scotland	19	7,310	19	3,173
Wales	15	2,629	6	6,514
Northern	19	3,548	10	328
North West	30	4,121	14	642
Yorkshire and Humberside	29	3,492	19	410
South West	2	221	—	—
East Midlands	3	394	2	27
West Midlands	—	—	1	24
Total	117	21,715	70	11,118

Index of industrial production for October 1976

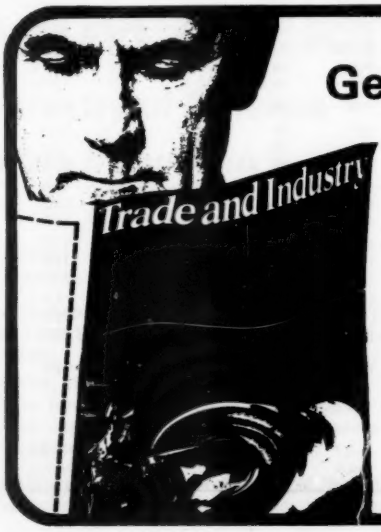
The provisional estimate for the total all-industries' index in October 1976 is 102.5 and that for manufacturing alone is 103.3 (1970 = 100).

The underlying level of industrial output probably changed little in recent months. It is provisionally estimated that the average level of the all-industries' index of 1976, before any adjustment to allow for the use of delivery indicators, was unchanged from its level in the preceding three months, while the average level of the index of manufacturing fell by ½ per cent in the same period. The analysis by broad market sectors shows that, over the same period, the output of the consumer goods industries was little changed while that of the investment goods and intermediate goods industries fell by nearly 2 per cent.

Many of the series used in compiling the index of production, in particular for manufacturing industry, measure deliveries rather than production. Deliveries and production in a month may differ because of movements in stocks of finished goods and work in progress. The use of such series for some industries resulted in the all-industries' index overstating the level of output in the third and fourth quarters of 1975 by nearly 1 per cent and ½ per cent, respectively, and understating it by nearly ½ per cent in the first quarter of 1976. It is provisionally estimated that the level of output might be overstated again by about ½ per cent in the third quarter of this year.

On a longer-term comparison, the all-industries index in the latest three months was about 2 per cent above its level in the same period a year ago; the corresponding rise for manufacturing industry was nearly 3 per cent.

Inquiries: 01-233 8310.



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Index of industrial production

Seasonally adjusted — 1970 = 100

	Total all industries	All industries other than construction	Mining and quarrying	Manufacturing industries												
				Total	Food, drink and tobacco					Engineering and allied industries						
					Total	Food	Drink and tobacco	Coal and petroleum products	Chemicals and allied industries	Total	Mechanical engineering	Instrument engineering	Electrical engineering	Shipbuilding and marine engineering	Total vehicles	Metal goods n.e.s.
Weights	1,000	850	37	745	84	52	32	7	58	319	100	15	67	16	73	48
1971	100.5	100.1	100.0	99.7	100.6	99.9	101.7	103.3	102.1	99.4	100.2	100.8	101.7	96.6	100.2	93.6
1972	102.7	102.4	84.1	102.4	104.9	104.0	106.4	102.5	108.1	100.1	95.0	93.0	110.2	91.8	104.2	95.7
1973	110.3	110.8	92.6	111.0	109.3	106.3	114.2	110.0	120.9	108.3	103.4	101.7	125.2	95.1	107.1	103.2
1974	106.4	107.9	78.8	108.2	109.9	104.5	118.8	106.0	127.9	106.7	103.4	104.9	120.6	98.9	102.5	103.9
1975	101.2	102.6	86.0	101.7	108.6	101.1	121.0	92.0	116.2	101.7	102.0	101.1	113.1	99.4	96.2	94.7
1975 1st qtr	104.7	106.7	87.3	106.1	108.3	101.2	119.9	95.9	119.3	107.0	104.3	104.8	120.5	100.4	102.4	103.4
2nd qtr	100.3	101.5	85.4	100.5	106.9	99.0	119.8	91.6	113.2	101.5	103.5	104.9	112.8	99.9	92.8	94.4
3rd qtr	99.6	100.5	84.4	99.7	108.5	99.3	123.7	92.3	112.5	100.0	100.2	99.4	111.7	98.0	95.3	91.3
4th qtr	100.4	101.7	86.8	100.4	110.8	104.7	120.8	88.2	119.9	98.5	99.9	95.4	107.3	99.5	94.3	89.9
1976 1st qtr	101.9	103.3	88.0	101.8	105.9	101.0	114.0	94.6	124.2	99.1	98.8	97.8	108.2	99.3	96.0	92.5
2nd qtr	102.1	104.1	89.8	103.2	112.6	106.4	122.7	96.7	126.6	99.8	99.0	104.0	111.8	99.0	95.0	91.1
3rd qtr	101.6	103.4	87.4	102.6	111.7	102.9	126.1	96.3	127.7	98.7	95.7	104.3	113.2	97.3	95.2	89.1
1975 Sep	100.3	101.3	85	100.4	110	100	127	92	117	100	100	98	111	97	96	92
Oct	100.6	102.0	87	100.7	110	103	122	93	119	99	100	96	108	101	93	91
Nov	100.7	102.2	87	100.9	110	104	120	85	119	99	100	95	107	99	97	91
Dec	99.8	101.1	86	99.5	112	106	121	87	122	98	100	95	106	99	94	88
1976 Jan	101.2	102.5	90	101.7	103	99	109	91	121	99	99	96	107	99	94	95
Feb	102.5	104.0	88	102.0	105	101	112	94	124	99	98	98	108	100	98	92
Mar	102.0	103.4	86	101.8	110	103	120	98	127	99	99	100	109	99	96	91
Apr	102.1	104.1	90	102.9	113	107	124	99	126	100	100	103	111	99	95	90
May	104.3	106.6	90	106.1	112	108	120	92	126	103	99	104	112	100	102	98
Jun	100.0	101.5	89	100.4	112	105	125	98	128	97	98	105	112	98	88	86
Jul	101.7	103.5	85	103.0	112	103	125	95	125	100	96	104	112	98	105	86
Aug	100.8	102.4	88	101.7	111	103	124	91	126	98	96	104	113	97	88	92
Sep	102.4	104.2	89	103.2	113	103	129	103	132	98	95	104	114	97	92	90
Oct	102.5	104.1	91	103.3	109	104	118	103	127	100	94	104	114	96	97	94
% change latest 3 months on previous 3 months	−0.1	−0.3	+1.3	−0.4	−1.1	−2.0	−0.2	+3.8	+1.5	−1.6	−2.7	−0.2	+1.6	−1.7	−6.0	+2.2
% change latest 3 months on a year earlier	+2.1	+2.8	+4.5	+2.9	+1.4	+2.3	+0.3	+5.7	+11.6	−0.7	−4.9	+6.6	+3.2	−2.1	−1.0	+1.2

	Manufacturing industries (continued)												Construction	Gas, electricity and water
	Metal manufacture			Textiles, leather and clothing				Bricks, pottery, glass, etc						
	Total	Ferrous	Non-ferrous	Total	Textiles	Leather, leather goods and fur	Clothing and footwear	Total	Bricks, cement, etc	Pottery and glass	Timber, furniture, etc	Paper, printing and publishing	Other manufacturing industries		
Weights	57	43	14	76	49	3	24	27	17	10	22	64	31	146	72
1971	91.3	89.8	95.8	102.2	100.6	103.0	105.4	108.1	107.0	109.8	103.0	97.3	99.8	103.0	103.9
1972	91.4	89.4	97.3	104.5	102.9	104.5	107.8	115.2	115.1	115.3	113.5	102.6	104.3	104.4	111.4
1973	100.0	97.3	108.5	110.1	108.6	101.1	114.6	126.0	123.7	129.5	132.6	112.1	116.6	107.5	118.1
1974	91.7	87.7	104.2	103.1	99.2	94.9	112.2	116.6	108.3	129.5	112.1	108.8	114.5	98.2	118.6
1975	78.6	74.2	92.2	99.5	93.8	92.9	112.2	107.7	99.5	120.5	110.3	95.7	105.5	93.5	120.4
1975 1st qtr	91.0	88.6	98.7	101.1	94.1	89.9	117.1	111.9	103.2	125.6	112.1	101.1	109.2	93.4	122.3
2nd qtr	75.7	70.8	90.8	98.6	93.7	90.0	109.8	105.6	98.4	116.9	109.5	94.8	103.0	93.8	119.2
3rd qtr	72.1	66.6	89.2	98.7	92.8	93.4	111.7	106.0	98.1	118.3	108.5	93.1	104.5	94.4	116.7
4th qtr	75.5	70.8	90.2	99.5	94.5	98.2	110.0	107.4	98.5	121.3	111.1	93.8	105.3	92.5	123.4
1976 1st qtr	83.4	79.9	94.2	102.3	98.5	98.6	110.7	109.6	101.6	122.0	110.4	96.2	109.8	93.4	126.5
2nd qtr	88.0	85.1	96.8	98.4	94.7	93.8	106.6	108.3	100.6	120.5	109.8	98.3	109.6	90.8	121.0
3rd qtr	84.7	81.6	94.3	101.4	97.1	98.0	110.8	111.2	100.2	128.3	110.7	95.2	110.1	91.5	119.6
1975 Sep	71	66	88	98	92	93	111	107	99	120	108	94	110		119
Oct	81	77	92	100	94	98	111	108	99	121	111	95	103		123
Nov	78	74	89	101	96	98	109	106	97	121	112	93	109		123
Dec	68	61	89	98	93	98	110	108	99	122	110	93	105		125
1976 Jan	88	86	95	107	104	99	115	106	99	115	111	96	107		118
Feb	82	78	94	102	99	99	110	111	102	126	112	97	111		133
Mar	80	75	93	98	93	99	107	112	104	125	108	96	112		129
Apr	85	82	96	98	95	94	104	108	102	119	110	99	109		123
May	103	101	108	103	99	94	113	109	100	123	116	99	112		120
June	76	73	87	94	90	94	102	108	99	120	104	96	108		120
Jul	86	82	97	100	96	98	108	112	100	132	110	96	105		118
Aug	86	85	91	101	97	98	110	110	100	124	111	95	106		118
Sep	82	78	94	103	98	98	114	111	100	129	112	95	119		123
Oct	87	82	104	101	96	98	111	106	97	120	119	98	115		120
% change latest 3 months on previous 3 months	−3.5	−4.6	−0.6	+2.5	+2.0	+3.0	+3.6	−0.5	−0.5	−0.5	+3.7	−1.6	+4.7		+0.7
% change latest 3 months on a year earlier	+13.8	+16.3	+7.8	+2.8	+4.1	+3.2	+0.6	+2.5	+1.4	+3.9	+4.4	+2.5	+9.1		+1.3

Inquiries: 01-233 8310.

Registrations of British, community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 17 December 1976.

BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
Get 'Em Off	BR/E 38905/19/12/81	32	15 December	New Realm Distributors Ltd	Harold Baim Presentations Ltd, London
Seven Days In Summer	BR/E 38906/19/12/81	29	15 December	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd	British Movietonews Ltd, London
Free As A Bird	BR/E 38907/19/12/81	24	15 December	United Artists Corporation Ltd	Julian Grant Films International Ltd, London
Movietone News 2480	BR/E 38646/19/12/81	8	17 December	British Movietonews Ltd	British Movietonews Ltd
			FOREIGN		
Private Pleasures	F/38904	95	14 December	New Realm Distributors Ltd	Premiar Films and Saga Films, Stockholm
Mustang Country	F/38908	80	16 December	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Universal Pictures, California
The Enforcer	F/38909	96	16 December	Columbia Warner Distributors Ltd	The Malposa Company, California
Exhibition	F/38910	96	16 December	Oppidan (UK) Ltd	Contrechanp Productions, Paris

Business Monitors

The following titles and issues of Business Monitors are now available.

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PQ221 Vegetable and animal oils and fats for second quarter 1976
PO229.1 Margarine for third quarter 1976
PQ239.2 British wines, cider and perry for third quarter 1976
PQ278 Fertilizers for third quarter 1976
PQ323 Miscellaneous non-ferrous metals for third quarter 1976
PQ364 Radio and electronic components for second quarter 1976
PQ380 Wheeled tractors for third quarter 1976
PQ384 Locomotives, railway track equipment, railway carriages, wagons and trans for third quarter 1976
PQ415 Jute for third quarter 1976
PQ418 Lace for third quarter 1976
PQ443 Women's and girls' tailored outerwear for second quarter 1976
PQ461.2 Clay building bricks and other non-refractory goods for second quarter 1976
PQ462 Pottery for third quarter 1976
PQ479 Miscellaneous wood and cork manufactures for third quarter 1976
PQ484.1 Wallcoverings for third quarter 1976
PQ1002 Manufacturing industries (total sales) for third quarter 1976

Service and distributive series

Monthly

SD5 Catering trades for October 1976
SD6 Instalment credit business of finance houses for October 1976
SD8 Instalment credit business of retailers for October 1976
SD9 Computer services for second quarter 1976

Miscellaneous series

Quarterly

M1 Motor vehicle registrations for October 1976

Business Monitors in the Production series and Miscellaneous series, and certain Monitors (nos SD 1 and SD 6) in the Service and Distributive series, are normally available by annual subscriptions from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH. Copies of specific issues (including back issues) can be ordered by post (payable in advance) from the Library at the Business Statistics Office, Newport, Gwent NPT 1XG (tel. 0633 56111, ext. 2973; telex 497121 – answer back BSO NPT G) from which a complete list of the titles of Business Monitors is available on application. Back issues of the monthly and quarterly Monitors cost 30p a copy post free. Please send payments for all orders below £5. The annual Monitors are individually priced and the cost of these will be supplied on request. Exceptionally, copies can also be purchased over the counter at the Department of Trade's Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU.

Government sales

Ministry of Defence

Sales by auction

11, 12 January 1977

Location
The Astoria, Roundhay Road, Leeds 8

Auctioneers
Bartle and Son (Dept L), 52 Merrion Street, Leeds LS2 8JH (tel. 0532-450898)

Vehicles, machine tools, MT spares, tyres, electrical and electronic spares, household workshop and garaging equipment. Clothing and textiles, household and office furniture and a large quantity of miscellaneous stores.

17, 18 January 1977

Location
Great Danes Hotel, Ashford Road, Hollingbourne, Maidstone, Kent

Auctioneers
Fuller Horsey Sons and Cassell (Dept L), 52 Bow Lane, London EC4M 9ET (tel. 01-248 7954)

Watches and clocks, telescopes and binoculars, microscopes, photographic equipment, domestic appliances, household and office furniture, vehicles and trailers, clothing and textiles, machine and hand tools, micrometers, paint, and a large quantity of miscellaneous stores.

Catalogues which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times, etc, are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 20p, postage and packing 10p extra (postal orders only).

Index to statistics and organisational information published regularly in 'Trade and Industry'

A = annually M = monthly Q = quarterly 6M = every six months.

Title	Last published
Air transport: trade by air (A)	16 July 1976
Balance of payments:	
current account (M)	This week
trends in invisible transactions	22 Oct. 1976
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Business names and limited partnerships (A)	7 May 1976
Capital expenditure: manufacturing, distributive and service industries (Q)	3 Dec. 1976
By regions	19 Nov. 1976
Catering trades turnover (M)	17 Dec. 1976
Census of production (A)	2 Apr. 1976
Chemicals industry activity (Q)	1 Oct. 1976
Companies:	
acquisitions and mergers (Q)	12 Nov. 1976
Liquidations *see* Insolvencies	
liquidity (Q)	10 Dec. 1976
new registrations:	
Gt. Britain (M)	This week
N. Ireland (M)	19 Nov. 1976
rate of return on capital (A)	8 Oct. 1976
Construction work overseas (A)	15 Oct. 1976
EEC economic indicators	10 Dec. 1976
Energy trends (M)	3 Dec. 1976
Engineering industries: sales and orders (M)	This week
Film industry	
British Film Fund Agency returns (M)	19 Nov. 1976
cinema admissions and takings (M)	10 Dec. 1976
overseas payments and earnings (A)	20 Aug. 1976
registrations of films (A)	30 Jan. 1976
Food:	
consumption levels (6M)	27 Aug. 1976
household consumption (Q)	8 Oct. 1976
Footwear industry: production, orders and deliveries (M)	This week
Foreign exchange: official reserves (M)	5 Nov. 1976
Foreign trade: industrial countries' production and trade (Q)	3 Dec. 1976
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Hire-purchase business (M)	10 Dec. 1976
Industrial production:	
index numbers (M)	This week
N. Ireland index	21 Nov. 1975
Scotland	26 Nov. 1976
Wales	8 Oct. 1976
Insolvencies (Q)	5 Nov. 1976
Insurance companies: investments and assets (A)	20 Aug. 1976
Investment:	
book values of overseas direct investments (every 3 years)	15 Nov. 1973
industry's investment intentions (3 times a year)	8 Oct. 1976
investment and earnings overseas (A)	25 June 1976
Man-made fibres:	
deliveries (Q)	3 Dec. 1976
production (M)	3 Dec. 1976
production: quarterly analysis (Q)	3 Dec. 1976
Metal-working machine tools (M)	3 Dec. 1976
Motor industry:	
car and commercial vehicle production (M)	3 Dec. 1976
estimated figures (M)	17 Dec. 1976
motor trade turnover (Q)	19 Nov. 1976
Office development permits (Q)	26 Nov. 1976
Overseas trade of the UK:	
direct exporters and credit terms (A)	16 July 1976
analysis of trends (Q)	3 Dec. 1976
ten-year back run (A)	12 Mar. 1976
export prospects (Q)	10 Sept. 1976
(*see also* Balance of payments)	
Pension funds: investments and assets (A)	20 Aug. 1976
Regional development grants (Q)	5 Nov. 1976
Regional selective assistance monthly summary (M)	This week
Regional selective assistance: offers £10,000 or more (Q)	19 Nov. 1976
Research and development expenditure	26 Nov. 1976
Retail prices index (M)	19 Nov. 1976
Retail trades:	
sales (M)	10 Dec. 1976
provisional figures (M)	17 Dec. 1976
sales, N. Ireland (M)	26 Nov. 1976
stocks (M)	17 Dec. 1976
Royalties: overseas transactions (A)	25 June 1976
Shipping: nationality of vessels in UK sea-borne trade (A)	9 July 1976
Steel consumption and stocks (Q)	19 Nov. 1976
Stocks:	
manufacturers' and distributors' quarterly figures (Q)	3 Dec. 1976
manufacturers' stocks: monthly estimates (M)	3 Dec. 1976
retail (M)	17 Dec. 1976
Television: overseas payments and earnings (A)	20 Aug. 1976
Textiles:	
activity in the industry (Q)	5 Nov. 1976
carpet sales (M)	26 Nov. 1976
cotton industry production (M)	10 Dec. 1976
hosiery production (M)	5 Nov. 1976
made-up clothing: orders and deliveries (M)	10 Dec. 1976
wholesale houses' sales (M)	This week
wool exports (Q)	10 Dec. 1976
wool output (M)	10 Dec. 1976
Tourism:	
foreign visitor arrivals (M)	17 Dec. 1976
overseas travel and tourism (Q)	12 Nov. 1976
Wholesale prices:	
average prices of selected commodities (A)	9 Apr. 1976
index numbers (M)	17 Dec. 1976

Departmental organisations etc.

British commercial representation overseas	8 Oct. 1976
Customs notices of interest to exporters	1 Oct. 1976
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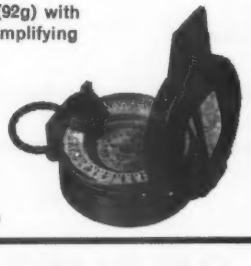

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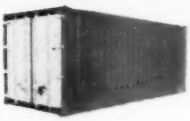

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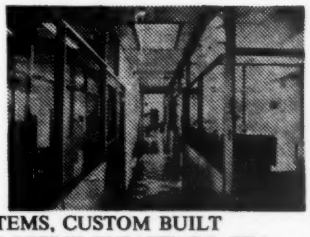

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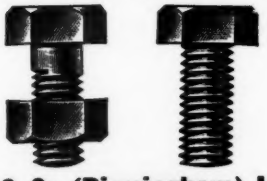

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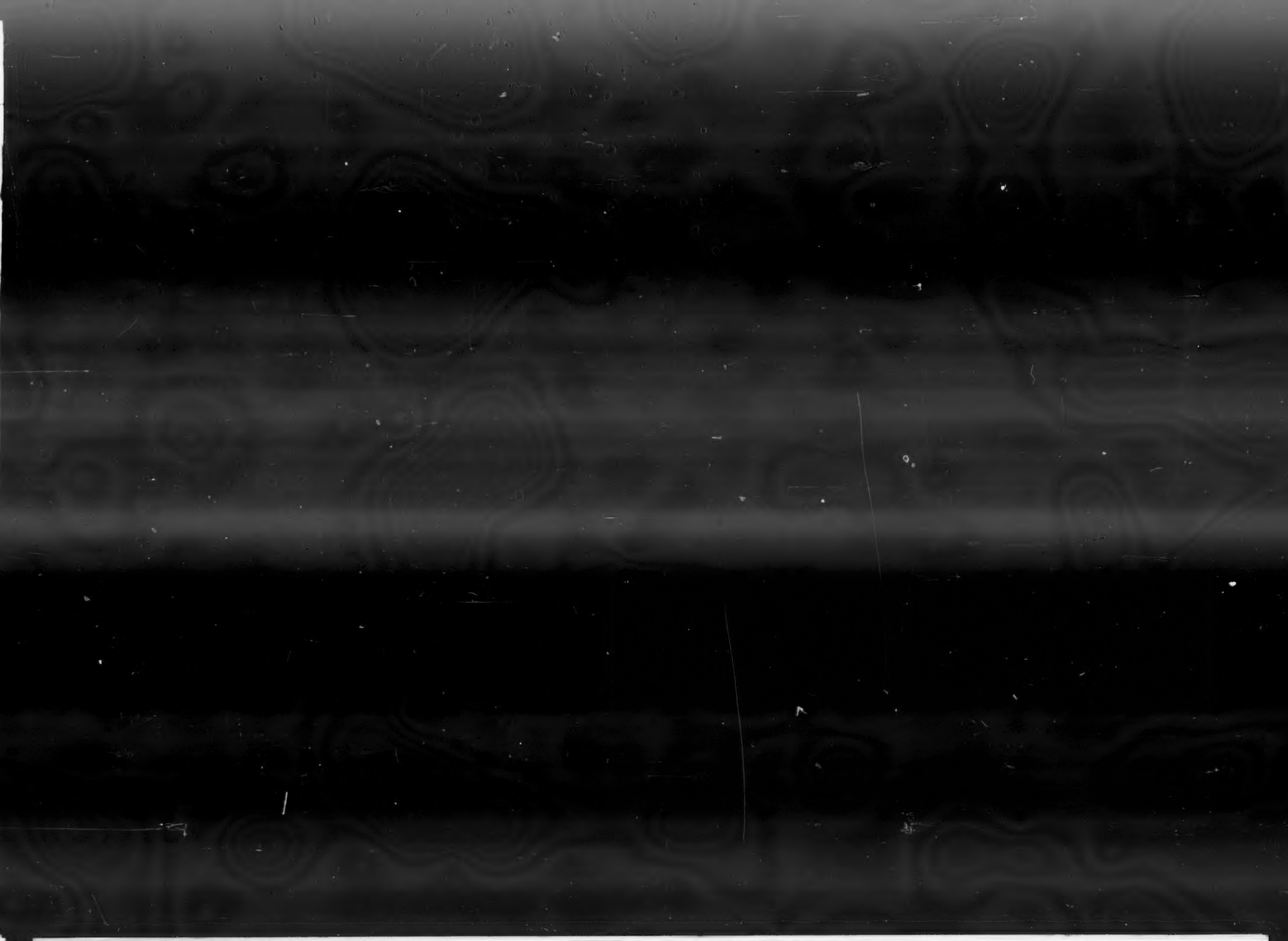
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